



Georgia House of Representatives

SESSION REPORT

House Budget & Research Office
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Director

2022 Session Bills Effective July 1

HB 1 Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act; enact

By: Rep. Josh Bonner (72nd) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1 creates the 'Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act.' The bill provides that the unrestricted outdoor areas of the campuses of the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia's institutions are public forums for their campus communities. The institutions shall not prohibit expressive activities in those areas or designate any campus areas as a "free speech zone". Institutions may maintain and enforce restrictions for expression so long as the restrictions are narrowly tailored to serve a significant institutional interest and employ criteria that is clear, published, neutral, and provides ample alternative means for expression. Restrictions must also allow the community to assemble spontaneously and to distribute literature.

Individuals may engage in expressive activities that do not materially and substantially disrupt the functions of the institution. Disruptions do not include conduct protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The bill does not prevent an institution from prohibiting student-on-student harassment or unlawful activities.

Policies, regulations, and expectations of student expression on campus will be made public by the institution. The institutions will also develop materials, programs, and procedures regarding student expression for all individuals responsible for the education or discipline of students.

The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia shall publish an annual report related to its actions on free expression. The report is shared with the governor and General Assembly on July 1 of each year.

HB 218 Crimes and offenses; weapons carry license reciprocity in this state; expand

By: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 218 allows reciprocity for any state's weapons carry license, as long as the holder carries according to Georgia's laws. The bill also requires the attorney general to enter into a reciprocity agreement with any state that requires one in order to recognize and give effect to a Georgia-issued license in their state.

HB 246 Motor vehicles; issuance of replacement licenses and permits; increase fee

By: Rep. Sam Watson (172nd) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 246 increases the fee for a replacement permit or license from \$5 to \$10. The bill increases the cost of a limited driving permit from \$25 to \$32 and the replacement fee from \$5 to \$10.

HB 263 Retirement; benefits for judges of probate courts; revise method through which certain actuarial equivalents are determined

By: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (14th) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 263 revises the computation method for the spousal benefits, as a designated survivor, under judges of the probate courts to using an interest rate and current mortality table adopted by the board. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill.

- HB 275 Fire protection and safety; random drug tests for certain firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, paramedics, and cardiac technicians; require**
By: Rep. Lauren McDonald (26th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 275 prohibits insurance companies from canceling, modifying, or refusing to issue life insurance based on an individual's status as an organ donor. The legislation provides a \$25,000 tax credit for organs donated and the costs of donation.
- HB 305 Professions and businesses; massage therapy; revise a definition**
By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 305 changes the definition of a "board recognized massage therapy educational program" to require that the program is approved by a national massage therapy certifying organization or a similar entity approved by the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy. Continuing education for massage therapy is revised to require that the instructors be approved and in good standing with a national massage therapy certifying organization.
- HB 342 Professions and businesses; certain advertisements related to plumbing; prohibit**
By: Rep. Dale Washburn (141st) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 342 prohibits any person from advertising as a master plumber or journeyman plumber without first obtaining a license from the Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman Plumbers.
- HB 343 Game and fish; rebuttable presumption of violation by individuals in possession of hunting paraphernalia while on others' lands; provide**
By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th) Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 343 states that an individual in possession of certain hunting paraphernalia creates a rebuttable presumption that the individual has not obtained permission to hunt on private lands. The bill provides a peace officer with the discretion to enforce this Code section.
The fine for a first violation is increased from \$500 to \$975, a second violation in a two-year period is increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and the fine for a third violation in a two-year period is increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000.
- HB 383 State government; certain contracts; Israel; provisions**
By: Rep. John Carson (46th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 383 prohibits the state from entering into a contract valued at \$100,000 or more with a company without written certification that the company is not and will not be participating in a boycott of Israel.
- HB 385 Teachers Retirement System of Georgia; employ beneficiaries; permit public school systems**
By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) Through the Retirement Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 385 allows retired members of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia, who have obtained 30 years of creditable service, to return to work full time providing instruction as a certified teacher of pre-kindergarten through grade 12, while receiving their full post-retirement benefit. Retired members can return to work in an "area of highest need" as designated by the Department of Education in consultation with the Professional Standards Commission. The "areas of highest need" will vary across Georgia based on the Regional Education Service Agency in which the school system resides. The school system must pay the employer and employee contribution rate, and the member cannot accrue additional creditable service. The member must wait one year from the date of retirement for their return to work. The state auditor is required to provide a performance audit on the value and necessity of full-time employment of retired members and the impact on school systems. The return to work provision is valid from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2026.
- HB 389 Employment security; change definition of employment to include services performed by an individual for wages**
By: Rep. Todd Jones (25th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 389 codifies existing case law to determine whether work classifies a person as an employee or an independent contractor. The bill provides an enforcement mechanism, which adds a civil penalty paid to the Department of Labor when an employer misclassifies its employees. Fines for each

misclassified employee for companies with less than 100 employees are capped at \$2,500, while fines for companies with 100 or more employees are capped at \$7,500.

The bill states that employment does not include services performed by or facilitated through a network company, so long as the network company has a written contract with the individual that expressly states that the network company shall not unilaterally prescribe specific dates, times, or a minimum number of hours that an individual is required to be logged onto the network company's application. To apply, the contract must not be terminated by the network company if a person does not: accept a specific delivery or transportation request; restrict an individual from performing transportation or delivery services through other network companies; and contractually restrict an individual from working in any other lawful occupation or business. The bill defines "ride share network service" and "network company." The bill also exempts music industry professionals.

HB 409 Judicial Legal Defense Fund Commission; establish

By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th)

Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 409 establishes the Judicial Legal Defense Fund Commission to facilitate the provision of state-funded legal representation to justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the Court of Appeals, the Georgia State-wide Business Court, and superior courts when these judges are sued for actions taken pursuant to their official duties.

The commission shall be governed by five members appointed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House, and the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia. The Council's appointment shall be a member of the judiciary. The appointments are subject to advice and consent of the Senate. The bill provides for the terms, occurrence of vacancies, officers, and voting of the membership.

In the event that a suit is filed against a judge and the attorney general does not provide representation and the costs of litigation are not covered by an insurance policy maintained by the Department of Administrative Services, it shall be the purpose of the commission to evaluate requests for representation and determine if the suit seeks relief from actions taken pursuant to the judge's official duties. With the assistance of the State Bar of Georgia, the commission shall maintain a list of attorneys to provide representation to the judges subject to the governor's approval.

If the commission endorses a judge's request to receive representation funded by the Judicial Legal Defense Fund, which is also established in the bill and funded by the Governor's Emergency Fund, the judge shall select an attorney from the list maintained by the commission and the attorney shall prepare an estimated budget for the representation. The judge's request, commission's endorsement, selected attorney, and attorney's budget shall be sent to the governor for approval. In the event that the attorney exceeds his or her budget, the attorney must submit an amended budget for approval.

House Bill 409 also provides that when a district attorney or solicitor-general's office is conflicted out of prosecuting a case, the district attorney shall notify the executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council to appoint an attorney to act in the place of that office.

HB 412 Professions and businesses; licensure of individuals in the practice of applied behavior analysis; provide

By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)

Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 412 creates the Georgia Behavior Analyst Licensing Board, which is composed of five members appointed by the governor. Eight new terms are defined, including: "applied behavior analysis," "behavior technician," "board," "board certified," "certifying entity," "licensed assistant behavior analyst," "licensed behavior analyst," and "practice of applied behavior analysis." The board is composed of three members who are eligible for licensure and either a board-certified behavior analyst or a board-certified behavior analyst-doctoral; one member who is eligible for licensure and a board-certified assistant behavior analyst; and one member of the public. Board terms are three years, although initial terms can be staggered, and the board regulates matters related to licensure.

An applicant for a behavior analyst license shall provide proof of successful passage of the behavior analyst examination, attainment of a master's degree based on applied behavior analysis, and active status as a board-certified behavior analyst. An applicant for an assistant behavior analyst license shall provide proof of successful passage of the assistant behavior analyst exam, attainment of a bachelor's degree based on applied behavior analysis, active status as a board-certified assistant behavior analyst, and will have ongoing supervision by a licensed behavior analyst. Violations of the unlicensed practice as either a behavior analyst or an assistant

behavior analyst are subject to \$1,000 fines.

These provisions do not apply to: 1) licensed psychologists, so long as the applied behavior analysis services are within that psychologist's training; 2) a behavior technician who delivers applied behavior analysis services under the authority of a licensed behavior analyst or licensed assistant behavior analyst; 3) a caregiver of a recipient of applied behavior analyst services who delivers the services under the authority of a licensed behavioral analyst or licensed assistant behavior analyst; 4) a behavior analyst who practices with non-human or non-patient clients or consumers; 5) a licensed professional authorized to practice in the state who is not a behavior analyst, so long as the licensed professional does not represent that he or she is a licensed behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst; 6) an enrolled graduate student or postdoctoral fellow whose activities are part of a defined behavior analysis program provided that the program is supervised by a licensed behavior analyst or an instructor in a course sequence approved by a certified entity; 7) unlicensed individuals who pursue experience in applied behavior analysis consistent with the experience requirements of a certifying entity; 8) professionals who provide general applied behavior analysis services to organizations, so long as those services are for the benefit of the organizations and do not involve direct services to individuals; 9) individuals who teach behavior analysis or conduct behavior analysis research, so long as that does not involve the direct delivery of applied behavior analysis services; 10) behavior analysts licensed in another jurisdiction or certified by a certifying entity to practice independently and who work in Georgia for a maximum of 30 days in a year and have received a temporary behavior analyst license; 11) an individual employed by a local school board of education who performs the duties of their positions; or 12) a licensed physician who is practicing medicine.

Temporary licenses can be issued to those individuals who reside in and practice in another state and who do not practice in Georgia for more than 30 days. Licenses can also be issued through reciprocity with other states, and licenses issued by the board are granted for two years. Further, the board is required to post a link on its website of the certifying entity or entities. The bill is effective on July 1, 2023.

HB 424 Income tax; change certain definitions

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 424 establishes a tax credit for contributions to "foster care support organizations," which are defined as being the aging-out programs of the Technical College System of Georgia Foundation, a Governor's Office of Planning and Budget certified aging-out program of the University System of Georgia Foundation, or any 501(c)(3) corporation that has the primary function of operating an aging-out program, operating as or supporting a Georgia-licensed child-placing agency, or disbursing funds directly to one or more of the prior listed entities. Taxpayers are allowed a 100% income tax credit for qualified donations to foster care support organizations provided that for the first six months of each year, a single individual or head of household shall not be allowed a credit of more than \$2,500; a married couple, individual who is a member of a limited-liability company, a shareholder of a Subchapter 'S' corporation, or a partner in a partnership shall not be allowed a credit of more than \$5,000; and a corporation shall not be allowed a credit of more than 10% of the corporation's income tax liability. This tax credit has an annual aggregate cap of \$20 million.

HB 464 Guardian and ward; petition for appointment of temporary guardian of minor filed in probate court may be transferred to juvenile court; provide

By: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (14th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: This bill clarifies that a probate court can transfer proceedings involving the appointment of a temporary guardian for a minor to a juvenile court. In addition, the bill clarifies that the parties' conduct can be considered in certain proceedings and expands the definition of "abuse, neglect, or exploitation" to include various crimes committed against a minor, proposed ward, or ward, including trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude; abuse, child abuse, and coercion; serious violent felonies; and sexual exploitation.

HB 469 Income tax; rehabilitation of historic structures; revise tax credits

By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 469 amends 48-7-29.8, relating to tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures, by capping the credit at \$5 million per year and extending the sunset to December 31, 2024 for historic homes, and capping the credits at \$30 million per year and extending the sunset to December 31, 2027 for certified structures other than historic homes.

HB 478 Evidence; expert testimony in criminal cases; change rules

By: Rep. Bonnie Rich (97th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 478 changes the evidentiary standard for testimony of expert witnesses in criminal cases to match the standard used in civil cases.

HB 508 Commerce and trade; commercial recordings, musical performances, and audiovisual works; provide protections

By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) Through the Creative Arts & Entertainment Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 508 makes it unlawful for a person to advertise or conduct a performance or production in Georgia by using any false, deceptive, or misleading affiliation, connection, or association without authorization. Each advertisement, performance, or production in violation of this Code section constitutes a separate infraction.

Section 2 of the bill creates the Georgia 'True Origin of Digital Goods Act,' which requires a person who owns or operates a website or online service that distributes commercial recordings or audiovisuals to consumers to clearly disclose its physical address, telephone number, and email address on such website or online service. This legislation is supplemental to those provisions of state and federal criminal and civil law that impose prohibition or provide penalties, sanctions, or remedies against the same conduct. A violation of these provisions is considered an unfair or deceptive act or practice of the 'Fair Business Practices Act of 1975.'

HB 517 Education; calculation of minimum revenue obligations for scholarships and tuition grants; (Part I) provide for the inclusion of earned interest

By: Rep. John Carson (46th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 517 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2A-2 relating to student scholarship organizations by clarifying that interest earned on deposits and investments from donations for scholarships or tuition grants are reinvested into the fund. This Code section is further amended by requiring student scholarship organizations to: perform an audit within 120 days of completing the student scholarship organization's fiscal year to be provided to the Department of Revenue within 60 days of the audit's completion; immediately notify the Department of Education if the Department of Revenue has ceased preapproving contributions; annually submit a copy of the most recent Form 990 to the Department of Revenue; and be solely responsible for verifying student eligibility.

HB 604 Bartow County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption

By: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (14th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 604 provides a \$60,000 homestead exemption from the assessed value of a home for residents of the Bartow County School District who are 65 years or older; an \$80,000 exemption from the assessed value of the home for residents who are 75 years or older; and a full exemption for residents who are 80 years or older.

HB 614 Griffin Judicial Circuit; assignment of cases; revise method

By: Rep. Karen Mathiak (73rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 614 revises provisions governing the Griffin Judicial Circuit. The bill revises the method for assigning cases, for selecting qualified persons for judge of the juvenile courts, for selecting the chief judge, and for filling vacancies in the office of chief magistrate of Fayette County.

HB 620 Guardian and ward; payment of certain settlements involving claims of minors; clarify and revise procedures and requirements

By: Rep. Rob Leverett (33rd) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 620 amends and updates provisions of the Code relating to the settlement of claims of minors. The maximum amount of the value of a minor's personal property, or the value of a minor's anticipated settlement, that may be received or accepted by the minor's guardian without becoming a conservator or court approval is raised from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

For proposed settlements of a minor's legal claim, the bill revises the definition of "gross settlement" and creates a new definition of "net settlement" to differentiate and clarify when a conservator must be appointed to submit a proposed settlement and which court must approve a proposed settlement.

When a minor has no assets, other than an interest in a legal claim, the requirement for a conservator to obtain a

bond to settle the claim is delayed until the value of such interest is determined.

With respect to wrongful death, if there is no surviving spouse and a wrongful death action is brought by a minor, the natural guardian shall qualify as a conservator and obtain court approval of a settlement.

HB 624 South Georgia Judicial Circuit; additional judge of the superior court; provide

By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 624 increases the number of judges for superior courts in the South Georgia Judicial Circuit from two to three. The additional judge is appointed by the governor for a term beginning July 1, 2022, until December 31, 2024. A successor shall be elected at the non-partisan judicial election held in 2024; and the elected successor will take office January 1, 2025.

HB 752 Psychiatric Advance Directive Act; enact

By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 752 provides a psychiatric advance directive for competent adults to set their mental health preferences. The bill allows patients to establish their wishes related to treatment and medications, and to establish an agent to make decisions on their behalf if they are unable to do so. The directive is effective upon signature of the patient as witnessed by two competent adults and can be revoked under certain circumstances. The provider or facility shall comply with the directive to the fullest extent possible, and providers acting in line with the directive are protected from certain liabilities. The bill contains the Georgia Psychiatric Advance Directive form that is to be completed by patients in accordance with the law. Health care facilities are authorized to prepare or offer a directive if requested by the patient or if the offer is not coercive.

HB 771 Austell, City of; annexation of certain territory into the boundaries; provide

By: Rep. Erica Thomas (39th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 771 provides for the annexation of certain territory into the boundaries of the city of Austell.

HB 775 Taylor County; board of education; modify compensation of members

By: Rep. Patty Bentley (139th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 775 modifies the compensation of the members of the Taylor Co. Board of Education. Members of the board receive a \$200 per diem for each day of attendance at meetings of the board and while meeting and traveling within or outside the state as a member of the board on official business.

HB 796 Clarke County; Classic Center Authority; change certain provisions relative to the purpose and powers

By: Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 796 changes provisions relative to the purpose and powers of the Classic Center Authority in Clarke County. The purpose of the authority is to develop and promote public projects for cultural growth, public welfare, education, and recreation in the county and the state.

HB 824 Georgia Legislative Retirement System; retirement allowance; increase

By: Rep. Wesley Cantrell (22nd) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 824 increases the member contribution rate for the Legislative Retirement System (LRS) from 8.5% of the member's monthly salary to \$165 each month, and the "presiding member" of the House will now contribute \$660 each month. The bill also changes the monthly benefit to \$50 for each year of creditable service for any individual that was a contributing member on January 1, 2022, and an additional \$200 for each year of a member's presiding creditable service. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuarial investigation has determined there is no cost to enact this legislation.

HB 891 Banking and finance; financial institutions; provide for numerous updates

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Banks & Banking Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 891 is the annual revision of Title 7 of the Code, relating to banking and finance, by the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance. Superfluous/redundant language is clarified and removed, terminology is updated, and outdated/unnecessary language is removed.

The bill eliminates the reporting requirement of permissible borrowings by department employees. It also increases the credit card limit of employees from \$10,000 to \$25,000, so long as the employee does not have direct examination authority over the entity and continues to report credit card debt.

The bill alters control language in the Code so if no person or entity controls 25% or more of a bank or holding company, the largest shareholder over 10% will be subject to change in control processes. The bill also eliminates consideration of convenience and needs in the event of a change of control or acquisition. It clarifies that change in control provisions also apply to financial institutions other than banks. Additionally, it allows an LLC, in addition to a corporation, to merge into a bank or trust company.

HB 891 revises representative office processes by providing that home state laws of a national/out-of-state bank apply to the location unless in conflict with state law. It adopts the federal law limitation prohibiting a loan production office from closing loans at the location. The language indicating an agent of a bank or holding company can open a representative office is struck. Notice is required prior to closing a representative office.

The bill requires the president of a new credit union to be named at the organizational meeting while eliminating the annual appointment requirement of a president by the board of directors. It removes the requirement for a credit union offering third-party payment services to get approval from the department. Credit union members are prohibited from voting by proxy, and credit union boards are permitted to meet less frequently than once during 10 months of the calendar year with the department's approval. Smaller asset credit unions (assets of \$15 million or less) are permitted to not secure a small signature loan if a car loan already exists, so long as the total combined liability is \$50,000 or less.

The bill modifies law related to bank investors so that a passive investor, an investor who does not exercise control and has less than a 25% ownership interest, does not have to be vetted and approved by the department. The department may disapprove of an executive officer that did not have to be vetted by the department through the control process.

HB 891 authorizes an installment lending licensee to make a loan of up to \$3,000. The bill additionally repeals the current provision requiring a 3% tax on interest provision collected by installment lenders and replaces it with a percentage fee based on the gross loan amount at the time of funding.

HB 893 Conservation and natural resources; extend date for hazardous waste fees

By: Rep. Randy Nix (69th) Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 893 extends the sunset date for hazardous waste management and hazardous substance reporting fees to July 1, 2027.

HB 911 General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) Through the Appropriations Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 911, the FY 2023 budget, is based on a revenue estimate of \$30.2 billion, an increase of 10.8% over original FY 2022 budget. The bill and tracking sheet may be found on the House Budget and Research Office [website](#).

HB 918 Georgia Rare Disease Advisory Council; provide establishment

By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 918 creates the Georgia Rare Disease Advisory Council under the Department of Public Health to advise the General Assembly and agencies on the needs of those with rare diseases in Georgia. The council will meet no less than quarterly and have opportunities for public comment. The council will also convene public hearings, consult with experts, evaluate recommendations, publish resources, and identify best practices.

Council members are appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House. Members include: a non-state employee chair; a representative from an academic research institution in the state that receives grant funding for rare disease research; a representative from the Division of Medical Assistance Plans

of the Department of Community Health; a representative of the Division of Family and Children Services; a geneticist; a registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse with experience treating rare diseases; a physician with experience treating rare diseases; a pediatric specialist trained in treating children with rare diseases; two patients with a rare disease; a caregiver of a person with a rare disease; a representative of a rare disease patient organization; a representative of the biopharma industry; a representative from a state health plan company; and a social worker with experience with rare disease patients. Members are not compensated, but are allowed reimbursement in the performance of their duties.

An annual report detailing activities of the council, funding status update, and recommendations will be provided to the governor and General Assembly and be made available for public comment. The first report is due no later than June 30, 2023.

HB 934 Sales and use tax; special district mass transportation; local government; provisions

By: Rep. Rob Leverett (33rd) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 934 amends 48-8-262, relating to Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (T-SPLOST), by allowing the tax to continue until the approved timeframe has expired regardless if the amount of tax collected has surpassed the originally estimated amount when an intergovernmental agreement exists. The bill also restricts when a referendum on a T-SPLOST may be held to the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, or in even-numbered years, the date of the presidential preference primary if one is held that year or the date of the general primary.

HB 937 Medicaid; coverage for annual mammograms at no cost to recipient; provide

By: Rep. Sharon Henderson (113th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 937 requires the Department of Community Health to provide Medicaid coverage for mammograms at no cost to the patient as long as the screening is recommended based on the patient's health status.

HB 961 Torts; authorize apportionment of damages in single-defendant lawsuits; provide for evidence of fault of nonparties

By: Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (104th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 961 amends Code Section 51-12-33 to authorize apportionment of damages in single-defendant lawsuits rather than solely in multi-defendant lawsuits. In lawsuits against one or more defendants, following a reduction of damages attributed to the plaintiff's percentage of fault, the damages shall be apportioned to the liable person or persons according to each person's percentage of fault.

HB 969 Insurance; update regulation of company holding systems

By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 969 updates reporting requirements for insurance holding companies to include information on their financial profile and group capital calculation.

HB 972 Professional counselors; licensing requirements; change certain definitions

By: Rep. D. C. Belton (112th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 972 updates the 'Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists Licensing Law.' The bill exempts participants in an internship, a practicum under supervision, or under the direction of a person certified as a rehabilitation counselor, to from licensure requirements for practicing professional counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy.

The bill also removes the authorization for those exempt under O.C.G.A. 43-10A-7 to serve as supervisors without being licensed. The applicant's requirement to have at least two personal references from supervisors or teachers is replaced with a completion requirement of a graduate level course or equivalent.

To obtain an associate professional counselor license, a candidate must have a master's degree in clinical counseling or counseling psychology and be registered with the board for obtaining the post-degree experience required for licensure as a professional counselor. In order to obtain a professional counselor license, a candidate must have a master's degree in clinical counseling or counseling psychology and two years of post-degree experience under direction and supervision in an acceptable work setting.

The bill raises the minimum fine for individuals who violate O.C.G.A. 43-10A-19 or O.C.G.A. 43-10A-7 to \$500 for each offense, and expands the potential punishment for business entities who violate O.C.G.A. 43-10A-21 to include imprisonment for up to 12 months.

HB 989 Haralson County; Board of Education; provide for compensation

By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th)

Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 989 provides for the compensation of the Haralson County Board of Education. The chairperson and each member of the board of education shall receive \$250 per month.

HB 1009 Motor vehicles; use of personal delivery devices to transport cargo; authorize

By: Rep. Todd Jones (25th)

Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1009 provides definitions and operation guidelines for personal delivery devices. Local authorities are authorized to enact ordinances related to the operation and regulation of personal delivery devices within the local authority's jurisdiction, subject to specified limitations. Personal delivery devices are prohibited from operating within a surface transportation project.

HB 1011 Motor vehicles; amber strobe lights; permitting requirements; exempt low speed vehicles

By: Rep. Don Hogan (179th)

Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1011 removes the permit requirement for low-speed vehicles to use an amber strobe light. The bill clarifies that permits for emergency vehicles to operate flashing or revolving emergency lights are valid for five years from the date of issuance.

HB 1013 Mental Health Parity Act; enact

By: Rep. David Ralston (7th)

Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: Part I: 'Georgia Mental Health Parity Act'

House Bill 1013 requires that health care insurance plans that provide coverage for mental health treatment or substance use disorders do so in accordance with the federal 'Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.' Health insurers must also provide an annual comparative analysis report to the insurance commissioner, which will be available on the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire's (OCI) website. Failure to submit timely reports can result in fines ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000. The commissioner is to ensure compliance with mental health parity requirements among health insurers and establish a process for addressing complaints about mental health parity violations. Insurers that do not comply with mental health parity may face punitive action including monetary penalties, compliance plans, or reprocessing of claims. The commissioner appoints a mental health parity officer.

The bill revises the definition of "department" to reference OCI rather than the Department of Community Health (DCH) in the existing Act. Further, this bill creates a new definition for "generally accepted standards of mental health or substance use disorder care" and defines it as independent standards of care and clinical practice recognized by certain specialty health care providers, including psychiatry, psychology, clinical sociology, addiction medicine and counseling, and behavioral health treatment. Additionally, the definition specifies valid, evidence-based sources of accepted standards of mental health or substance use disorder care. The definitions of "medical necessity," "medically-necessary care," or "medically necessary and appropriate" are also revised to include behavioral health services that screen, prevent, diagnose, manage, or treat an illness.

HB 1013 requires that state health insurers providing coverage for mental health and substance use disorders do so to the same degree as the treatment for a physical illness and coverage extends to a spouse and dependent(s) covered under a plan. Health insurers must provide annual comparative analysis reports to the DCH commissioner, which will be available on the department's website. The DCH commissioner is to perform parity-compliance reviews of state health insurers on an annual basis as well as establish a process for addressing complaints about mental health parity violations.

The DCH and OCI commissioners are required to make reasonable efforts to provide culturally and linguistically sensitive materials to consumers through the complaint process. Health insurers are not allowed to prohibit same-day reimbursement for someone who sees separate mental health and primary care providers in the same day.

Care management organizations (CMOs) are required to maintain a minimum 85% medical loss ratio (MLR) or a higher minimum established in a contract between DCH and a CMO. If the minimum ratio is not met, the

CMO must provide a remittance of the amount determined by DCH. The department will post on its website the aggregate MLR for all CMOs, the MLR for each CMO, and required remittances.

Part II: Workforce and System Development

The bill authorizes service cancelable educational loans for Georgia residents enrolled in educational training for primary care medicine, psychiatry, mental health, substance use, clinical nurse specialist in mental health, or other licensed clinicians or specialists. Loans are conditional on the student agreeing to practice as a professional within an approved geographical area of the state.

The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce is required to create a Behavioral Health Care Workforce Data Base to collect and analyze surveys for behavioral health care professional applicants and licensees. Licensing boards will require these surveys to be completed by professionals upon licensure, and the surveys must include the professional's demographics, practice status, education and training, specialties, average hours worked per week, percent of practice engaged in direct care, retirement plan if retiring in the next five years, child and adolescent specialized training, information on accepting new patients, and types of accepted insurance, including Medicaid and Medicare.

Part III: Assisted Outpatient Treatment

HB 1013 creates a three-year assisted outpatient treatment grant program to establish the efficacy of the assisted outpatient treatment model in Georgia.

The bill defines "assisted outpatient treatment" as involuntary outpatient care provided by a community service board or a private provider in collaboration with other community partners in order to: identify current residents who qualify as outpatients; establish procedures that lead to a petition being filed in the appropriate probate court when an individual is believed to be an outpatient; provide evidence-based treatment and case management under an individualized plan; safeguard the due process rights of those alleged to require and those civilly committed to involuntary outpatient care; establish communication between the court and providers; continually evaluate each care plan and respond to non-compliance; partner with law enforcement agencies to provide an alternative to the arrest, incarceration, and prosecution of individuals who may qualify as outpatients; and maintain a patient's connection to treatment services upon transition to voluntary outpatient care.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) will establish a grant program for the implementation of assisted outpatient treatment and provide three years of funding, technical support, and oversight to five grantees. The grantees must be a collaboration between community service boards or private providers, probate courts or other courts with jurisdiction, and sheriffs' offices. The bill outlines the process for the application and award of the grants.

HB 1013 requires the DBHDD to contract with a third-party organization or consultant prior to awarding the grants in order to evaluate the program and its effectiveness. The grantees must provide the required information to the third-party organization or consultant, and the department must contractually require the third-party organization or consultant to produce a report and send it to the governor and the chairpersons of the respective House and Senate Health and Human Services committees by December 31, 2025.

Current statute states that when a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that an individual is mentally ill and requiring involuntary treatment, the officer is able to take that person to a physician or emergency receiving facility for an examination. HB 1013 states that the officer can transport a patient to a receiving facility if they have probable cause to believe the individual is mentally ill requiring involuntary treatment and have consulted with a physician who authorizes transportation for the purpose of evaluation. The officer is required to write a detailed report about the circumstances of the person's detainment, which will become a part of the patient's clinical record. These provisions also apply to those hospitalized for and arrested for penal offenses due to substance abuse disorder.

The governing county authority where the patient is found is required to arrange initial emergency transportation, and the transportation provider is prohibited from releasing the patient to any place other than the receiving facility. At the community mental health center's request, the court is required to order the sheriff to carry out subsequent transportation appropriate to the patient's condition. The patient can also be transported by family and friends to the health center's satisfaction. No female patient is allowed to be transported without another female present unless there is an emergency or a male family member accompanies her.

Part IV: Mental Health Courts and Corrections

Subject to appropriations, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) will create a grant program to fund accountability courts serving the mental health and co-occurring substance use disorder population to implement trauma-informed treatment and designate an employee to issue technical assistance to the courts. The council will also create a grant to fund emergency transportation cost for local governments depending on funds.

HB 1013 adds to the list of authorized expenditures of the County Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Fund to include drug abuse treatment and education programs relating to controlled substances, alcohol, and marijuana for adults and children. Additionally, the fund can be used by a mental health court division that serves those with co-occurring substance use disorders.

The bill expands the powers and duties of the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination (OHSC) to: partner with the Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice to evaluate mental health wraparound services to meet client needs in the state reentry plan; partner with the Department of Community Supervision to evaluate the ability to share mental health data between agencies in order to facilitate identifying and treating people under community supervision who receive community-based mental health services; oversee coordination of mental health policy and behavioral health services across state agencies; develop and implement a solution to ensure appropriate health care services and supports; develop solutions to systemic barriers impeding delivery of behavioral health services; focus on goals to resolve issues related to behavioral health services; monitor and evaluate implementation of goals and recommendations to improve behavioral health access; establish common outcome measures to evaluate agencies in overseeing mental health services; and create a comprehensive formulary for behavioral health prescriptions under state health plans. Lastly, OHSC is to examine ways to increase certified peer specialists in rural and other underserved or unserved communities and conduct a survey or study on the emergency transport of individuals.

The state will fund at least five new co-responder programs, each of which will have a minimum of one team. Behavioral health co-responders are included in the entities trained at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center.

The Mental Health Courts and Corrections Subcommittee of the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission is authorized to submit recommendations to DBHDD regarding the development and future expansion of the program and continue exploring community supervision strategies. The subcommittee is also tasked with continuing to explore community supervision strategies for individuals with mental illnesses.

HB 1013 adds the following persons to the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council: the commissioner of the Department of Early Care and Learning; the commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia; a behavioral-health expert employed by the University System of Georgia and designated by the chancellor of the university system; the Office of the Child Advocate; an expert on early-childhood mental health appointed by the governor; an expert on child and adolescent health appointed by the governor; and a pediatrician appointed by the governor.

Part V: Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health

DBHDD is to provide the following annual reports to OHSC: complaints made by individuals receiving behavioral health services; status of housing placements and needs; programs designed to serve disabled infants, children, and youth; and performance and fiscal status of each community service board.

HB 1013 clarifies that community service boards provide mental health, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases services to both adults and children.

The bill adds a deadline of October 1, 2024, for the creation of a statewide system for sharing of data between various state agencies for the purposes of the care and protection of children.

The Multi-Agency Treatment for Children (MATCH) team is established within DBHDD and is composed of members from the following agencies: the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS); the Department of Juvenile Justice; the Department of Early Care and Learning; the Department of Public Health; the Department of Community Health; the Department of Human Services; the Department of Education; the Office of the Child Advocate; and the Department of Corrections. The MATCH team facilitates cross-agency collaboration to explore resources and solutions for the treatment needs of children.

Part VI: Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission

HB 1013 requires DCH to study and submit a report by December 31, 2022, for its insurance programs (Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, and the State Health Benefit Plan) that compares reimbursement rates for mental health services to other states; reviews reimbursing providers of mental health care services; provides an accurate accounting of mental health fund distribution across state agencies; reviews medical necessity of denials for adolescent behavioral health services; and implements coordinated health care for foster youth with claims being immediately shared with DFCS.

The Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission is authorized to collaborate with DBHDD to develop assisted outpatient treatment fidelity protocols and education for grantees; consult with DBHDD in the selection of a research consultant or entity; coordinate initiatives to assist local communities to keep those with serious mental illness out of detention facilities; convene with various health plans and providers to examine

how to develop a mechanism to meet the behavioral health needs of youth and young adults in state custody; provide adoptive caregivers with necessary support; and establish an advisory committees to evaluate methods to create pathways of care and develop and recommend solutions for appropriate health care services.

The bill requires the Georgia Data Analytic Center Project's administrator to prepare an annual unified report of suspected mental health parity violations with data received from OCI and DCH.

The bill also requires DCH to provide Medicaid coverage for any medically necessary prescription prescribed to an adult by a licensed practitioner for the treatment of delusion and mood disorders, including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, if certain criteria are met.

The Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission is extended to June 30, 2025.

HB 1021 Insurance; minimum nonforfeiture interest rate for individual deferred annuities; decrease

By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1021 decreases the minimum non-forfeiture interest rate for individual deferred annuities from 1% to 0.15%.

HB 1034 Sales and use tax; exemption for sales of admissions to nonrecurring major sporting events; revise

By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (119th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1034 amends Code Section 48-8-3 to expand the sales tax exemption for sales of admissions to non-recurring major sporting events to include any match of a FIFA World Cup and by extending the sunset date from December 31, 2022, to December 31, 2031.

HB 1042 OneGeorgia Authority Act; grant program to establish primary care medical facilities in health professional shortage areas; provide

By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1042 requires the OneGeorgia Authority to create a grant program. Subject to appropriation, this program provides grants to eligible development authorities to establish primary care medical facilities in health professional shortage areas. "Primary care medical facility" is defined as any facility where the majority of the services provided are primary care, dental, or mental health services. Award amounts shall not to exceed \$200,000 and are determined by the review of the primary care shortage; local commitment; consistency with local healthcare objectives; readiness and feasibility; geographic distribution of current primary care facilities; and cost estimates. Pending grant awards will be approved by the governor and the Board of Community Health.

HB 1044 Local government; creation of regional development authorities; provide

By: Rep. Clay Pirkle (155th) Through the Economic Development & Tourism Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1044 allows for the creation of regional development authorities by a group of three to five contiguous counties. The bill stipulates that at least half of the members of the governing body from each county complete a basic economic development training course certified by the Department of Community Affairs. Each regional development authority is an active authority with a board of directors that meets quarterly, develops an operational business plan, owns property lying within one or more of the participating counties, and maintains an active agreement for sharing expenses and proceeds. A county cannot belong to more than one regional development authority. The bill provides a tax credit for each new quality job in qualifying investment properties for the lowest tier participating county within the regional development authority.

HB 1044 clarifies the definitions of cable and video services related to franchise fees. Cable and video services shall not include video programming accessed via a service that enables users to access content offered over the internet, including streaming content. Video service shall not include any video programming provided by a direct broadcast satellite service provider.

HB 1049 State Board of Nursing Home Administrators; revise composition

By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1049 adds two members to the State Board of Long-Term Care Facility Administrators. The number of members who are nursing home administrators increases from three to four, and

the number of members who are either a personal care home administrator or an assisted living community administrator increases from three to four. The total number of members is 11 after June 30, 2022.

HB 1055 Motor vehicles; revise definition of all-terrain vehicle

By: Rep. Jason Ridley (6th)

Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1055 increases the defined weight limit for an "all-terrain vehicle" from 2,500 pounds to 3,500 pounds.

HB 1058 Income tax; affiliated corporations file separate or consolidated returns; provisions

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th)

Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1058 amends 48-7-21, relating to income taxation of corporations, to allow affiliated corporations to elect to file a Georgia consolidated income tax return without the request or approval of the Department of Revenue. For the purposes of allocation and apportionment, each member of a Georgia affiliated group shall be considered a separate taxpayer. Any taxable loss of a member of a Georgia affiliated group shall be deductible against the taxable income of any other member of the group only if the loss is apportioned and allocated to Georgia. The choice to file a consolidated income tax return is irrevocable and binding for a period of five years. At the end of the five-year period, the taxpayer may elect to file a consolidated return again.

HB 1059 Insurance; unfair trade practices and unlawful inducements; provide for exclusions

By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th)

Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1059 provides exclusions to unfair trade practices and unlawful inducements by allowing insurance companies to provide loss-mitigation safety products to consumers.

HB 1064 Income tax; certain retirement income for military service; provide exemption

By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th)

Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1064 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-27, relating to the computation of taxable net income, by adding an income tax exemption of up to \$17,500 of military retirement income for individuals less than 62 years of age and an additional exemption of \$17,500 for individuals less than 62 years of age who have at least \$17,500 of earned income.

HB 1069 Mental health; adult mental health programs; provide licensure

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th)

Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1069 provides for the classification, evaluation, licensure, and monitoring of mental health treatment and recovery programs. Certain governing bodies are prohibited from operating adult residential mental health programs without a valid or provisional license. Unlicensed programs may receive a civil penalty of \$100 per bed per day for each violation, which is doubled if unlicensed operations continue after notification. Operators and owners of unlicensed programs will also be guilty of a misdemeanor for the first violation and could face a felony under certain circumstances.

The Department of Community Health is required to create minimum quality standards across several areas, including admission criteria, adequate facilities and equipment, training standards, service content, referral arrangements, and prescription dispensing. Records pertaining to someone with a mental illness seeking or receiving treatment will be confidential except under certain circumstances. The department will conduct regular on-site inspections of licensed adult mental health programs.

HB 1084 Education; curricula or training programs which encourage certain concepts; prevent use of

By: Rep. Will Wade (9th)

Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1084 creates the 'Protect Students First Act,' which prevents the use of and reliance on curricula or training programs in state public schools that espouse "divisive concepts," such as: one race is inherently superior to another race; the United States of America is fundamentally racist; an individual, by virtue of their race, is inherently racist or oppressive toward individuals of other races; an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment because of their race; an individual bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other individuals of the same race; an individual should feel anguish, guilt, or any other form of psychological distress solely because of his or her race; the appreciation of character traits,

such as hard work ethic, are racist or have been advocated for by individuals of a particular race to oppress individuals of another race; any other form of race scapegoating or race stereotyping.

No later than August 1, 2022, each local board of education is to adopt a complaint resolution policy to address complaints alleging violations of this new policy. Within three school days of receiving a written complaint, the school principal or principal's designee will determine whether the alleged violation occurred and communicate that decision as well as remedial steps to the complainant within five days. The school principal's determinations will be reviewed by the local school superintendent, or their designee, within 14 days of receiving a written request, and their decision is subject to review by the local board of education or the State Charter Schools Commission.

Decisions may be appealed to the State Board of Education, which shall make written findings of any violations. In cases where a local school system has been granted one or more waivers, the State Board of Education will immediately suspend one or more waivers in the local school system's contract. In cases where a school system has not been granted a waiver, the state school superintendent will determine whether to exercise their suspension authority.

House Bill 1084 adds a new subsection of 20-2-316 that no high school that receives Quality Basic Education Act (QBE) funds shall participate in, sponsor, or provide coaching staff for interscholastic sports events that are conducted under the authority of any athletic association unless that association provides for an executive oversight committee and for reimbursement for such oversight committee.

A compliant athletic association has a charter, by-laws, and a 10-member executive oversight committee. The athletic association must also provide for reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by the executive oversight committee for the performance of their duties.

If an athletic association determines that it is necessary and appropriate to prohibit students whose gender is male from participating in athletic events that are designated for students whose gender is female, then the athletic association may adopt a policy to that effect, and that policy shall be applied to all of the association's participating high schools. Any school that does not comply with this code section shall forfeit its allotted funding provided for under Article 6.

HB 1086 Health; influenza vaccinations for discharged patients; lower age to 50

By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1086 reduces the age from 65 to 50 years old for hospitals to offer an inpatient the influenza vaccine prior to discharge.

HB 1088 Property; nonjudicial foreclosure of time-share estates; authorize

By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1088 authorizes non-judicial foreclosures of time-share estates by an owners' association. The notice of sale shall be in writing sent by registered/certified mail or overnight delivery no later than 30 days prior to the date of the proposed sale, or alternatively by advertising in a local newspaper.

HB 1089 Revenue and taxation; certain violations of registration requirements for motor vehicles operated by motor carriers; increase penalty

By: Rep. Vance Smith (133rd) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1089 increases the penalty fee from \$25 to \$145 for each violation of specified motor vehicle registration requirements.

HB 1103 Motor vehicles; heavy-duty equipment motor vehicle; revise definition

By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1103 provides the definition of a "heavy-duty equipment motor vehicle" as it relates to separately stated fees in a motor vehicle rental agreement between a motor vehicle rental company and a rental customer.

HB 1115 Commerce, City of; change description of districts*By: Rep. Tommy Benton (31st)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1115 changes the description of the education districts for the Commerce Independent School District.

HB 1134 Crimes and offenses; prosecute offenses involving criminal gang activity; provide for concurrent authority*By: Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th)**Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1134 provides the attorney general with concurrent jurisdiction with prosecutors for certain criminal gang-related crimes across the state. The attorney general may also employ peace officers for investigative purposes.

HB 1146 Motor vehicles; law enforcement vehicles be equipped with primarily blue flashing or revolving lights; provide*By: Rep. Jodi Lott (122nd)**Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1146 requires vehicles driven by officers enforcing traffic to be equipped with flashing lights, primarily blue in color, and removes the restriction on the Georgia State Patrol from having more than two vehicles per post without such exterior-mounted roof lights.

HB 1148 Game and fish; possession of cervid carcasses; remove definitions; provisions*By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th)**Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1148 prohibits the transportation of a cervid carcass from outside Georgia into the state if any part of the carcass contains a portion of the nervous system. The bill clarifies exceptions to include antlers, skulls, skull plates, teeth, or jawbones that do have soft tissue attached.

If chronic wasting disease is detected in Georgia or a county adjacent to the state's borders, HB 1148 allows the Department of Natural Resources to restrict the transportation of cervid carcasses into, or within, the state.

HB 1150 Freedom to Farm Act; enact*By: Rep. Robert Dickey (140th)**Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1150 eliminates definitions for "agricultural area," "changed conditions," and "urban sprawl" in order to prevent a nuisance lawsuit from being brought against a farming operation that has been active for more than two years. A private nuisance action cannot be brought against an agricultural facility or operation unless the plaintiff possesses the real property affected by the alleged nuisance. The start of a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) shall constitute a separate and independent established date of operation, regardless of whether the CAFO is started on a pre-existing farming operation. The bill adds that the provisions of the subsection do not apply if a nuisance is caused by negligence or illegal operations.

HB 1175 Georgia Raw Dairy Act; enact*By: Rep. Clay Pirkle (155th)**Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1175 provides for the standards related to the safety, transportation, and sale of raw milk in Georgia. The Department of Agriculture shall be responsible for the enforcement of this article and establishing any related rules and regulations, including rules related to the labeling of raw milk for human consumption, specifications for any glassware used for bottling, and the installation of recording thermometers on bulk farm tanks.

Any person who manufactures, stores, or sells raw milk for human consumption must be in possession of a permit from the department. Permits must be held before the beginning of an operation and are not transferable. All permits are valid for one year and are renewable upon submission of relevant forms. Any person operating under this article must provide the department with any requested data or statistics.

Prior to the issuance of a permit, samples of raw milk shall be collected and tested to ensure acceptable pathogenic results. Following the issuance of a permit, the department shall test raw milk for consumption as frequently as necessary to determine a product is not adulterated, misbranded, or otherwise not in compliance. At least four samples must be collected in a six-month period in at least four separate months. Samples must show the raw milk for human consumption conforms to the following standards: bacteria limits below 20,000 per mL;

no positive results for drugs; somatic cell count below 500,000 per mL; coliform counts below 10 per mL; and any organisms of *Escherichia coli*. If the freezing point of milk is greater than -0.525 degrees Celsius, the raw milk is to be considered to contain water and is in violation of this article, the penalty for which is a two-day suspension for a violation of greater than 3%. Raw milk is to be considered adulterated if the presence of drugs, pesticides, herbicides, or other poisonous substances are found; if milk is adulterated, it should be disposed of outside of the human or animal food chain and a penalty shall be imposed. Further, if a drug residue test is positive, a recall shall be initiated. Samples shall be analyzed by a laboratory in compliance with the latest edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products (SMEDP) of the American Public Health Association and the latest edition of Official methods of Analysis (OMA) of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists (AOAC) International.

HB 1175 requires all raw milk for human consumption to be bottled, packaged, and sealed in the same location the milk is produced. All vessels, including bottles, shall be labeled in accordance to requirements set by the 'Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act,' as amended by the 'Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990' and any other relevant federal regulations. Bottles, containers, and packages containing approved raw milk for consumption shall also be marked with the following: "Grade A Raw" on the exterior; the identity of the farm in which the product was produced; the statement, "This is a raw milk product that is not pasteurized and may increase the risk of foodborne illness" in no smaller than 12-point font; and the common name of the hoofed animal that produced the milk.

Raw milk for consumption shall be cooled to 10 degrees Celsius or less within four hours and to 7 degrees Celsius or less within two hours of the commencement of milking. Finished, processed, and packaged raw milk shall be kept at 7 degrees Celsius or less during storage and transportation. Lactating animals that show evidence of milk with abnormalities or that have been treated with or consumed medicinal or radioactive agents must be milked last or using separate equipment and the extracted milk must be discarded. Milk from lactating animals that have consumed medicinal agents as prescribed by a veterinarian or that has been exposed to insecticides shall not be offered for sale. Milking equipment that has been exposed to an animal with milk abnormalities shall be sanitized before being used again to reduce the possibility of re-infection or cross infection. All animals producing raw milk for human consumption must be tested for brucellosis and tuberculosis every 12 months; animals shipped into Georgia for the purpose of milking shall be tested no more than 30 days before being brought into the state. If an animal tests positive, it shall be separated from the herd, retested, and, if necessary, disposed of according to guidelines published by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Each producer of raw milk for human consumption must develop and maintain procedures to notify regulatory officials, consumers, and conduct product recalls.

Any person that violates any of the following shall be found guilty of a misdemeanor: handling of raw milk in unclean or unsanitary places or manners; storage or preparation of any raw milk for human consumption in the same structure where hide or fur of any cow, horse, hog, or other livestock is kept; handling or shipment of raw milk in unclean or unsanitary vessels; exposure of raw milk to flies or another contaminated influence; possession of a branded or registered raw milk can or container for any purpose other than the handling, storage, or shipment of raw milk; the sale of raw milk that is not pure, fresh, and handled with clean equipment; the sale of raw milk from diseased or unhealthy animals or that came in contact with a person suffering from a contagious disease; the sale of raw milk that has been exposed to contaminant that would render the raw milk unsuitable for human consumption; or the sale of raw milk that does not meet the standards set by this article.

HB 1175 exempts any testing equipment used to determine whether a substance has been adulterated with a synthetic opioid from being considered a drug-related object.

HB 1178 Parents' Bill of Rights; enact

By: Rep. Josh Bonner (72nd)

Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1178 establishes the 'Parents' Bill of Rights' and states that it is the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing and education of their minor children. The bill certifies that no state or local government entity, local board of education, or any officer, employee, or agent thereof may infringe on the fundamental right of a parent without the action being reasonable and necessary to achieve a narrowly tailored, compelling state interest and is otherwise served by less restrictive means. The fundamental rights of parents include the right to: direct the moral and religious upbringing of their minor child; review all instructional materials intended for use in the classroom of their minor child; apply to enroll their minor child into a public or private school, or other available options; access and review all records relating to their child unless prohibited by law; access information relating to promotion and retention policies and high school graduation requirements; and consent in writing before a photograph, video, or voice recording of their child is made.

Each governing body, in consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators, will develop and adopt a policy or regulation to promote parental involvement in public schools. The policy will include procedures for a parent to fulfill all the parts of their fundamental rights, as previously listed.

HB 1183 Criminal procedure; increase time allotted to try a criminal case in judicial emergencies; provide
By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1183 revises the timeline for remission of bonds in criminal cases from payment of judgment to entry of judgment and may consider whether any delay by the surety prevented the prosecution of the accused. The bill also reduces the collateral required for bond companies to have available to 5% of the current outstanding liability, when a bond company has operated for 18 months continuously in a county. Further, the bond companies are not required to have more than \$1 million available on deposit.

HB 1186 Speech-language pathologists and audiologists; revise licensing provisions
By: Rep. Penny Houston (170th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1186 expands the eligibility for persons who can have a non-diagnostic electro-physiologic screening done by a non-licensed audiologist from age three and under to birth through 22 years of age.

HB 1188 Criminal procedure; each act of child molestation charged as a separate offense; provide
By: Rep. Jodi Lott (122nd) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1188 revises the crimes of "child molestation" and "sexual exploitation of children" to specify that each individual violation of the crimes can be charged as its own count in a charging document.

Further, the bill defines "commercial social networking" and "high-risk sex offender" and makes it a crime for any high-risk sex offender to access or use a commercial social networking website to communicate with a person who the offender believes is under 16 years old, impersonate a person under the age of 16 years old, or gather information about a person who the offender believes is under 16 years of age. The penalty for this crime is a felony with imprisonment of between one to 10 years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both.

HB 1194 Motor vehicles; federal regulations regarding safe operation of commercial motor vehicles and carriers; update reference date

By: Rep. Clint Crowe (110th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1194 updates the 'Uniform Carriers Act' to change the effective date to January 1, 2022, to comply with federal law.

HB 1215 Education; provision that reduced the amount of certain funding to state charter schools that offer virtual instruction; remove

By: Rep. Brad Thomas (21st) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1215 revises O.C.G.A. 20-2-2066 to allow students to withdraw without penalty from a local school in the school system in which a student resides and enroll in a charter school with available classroom space. Each local board of education will adopt a universal, streamlined transfer process. The bill includes a definition of "charter school," which clarifies that it operates under a charter school governing board, has a code assigned by the Department of Education, and is the subject of a report card prepared and distributed by the Office of Student Achievement. HB 1215 addresses funding of local charter schools by noting the calculation of allocation of local revenue is adjusted at least semi-annually based on collected local revenues.

HB 1216 Traffic offenses; enhanced penalties for violations of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; provide

By: Rep. Lauren McDonald (26th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1216 enhances the penalties for fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer. The minimum fine for a first conviction increases from \$500 to \$1,000 and a minimum 30-day imprisonment. A second conviction within a 10-year period has an increased minimum fine of \$2,500, up from \$1,000 and a minimum period of imprisonment of 90 days. Third convictions within a 10-year period carry a \$4,000 penalty,

increased from \$2,500 and a minimum imprisonment of 180 days. These first three convictions are a high and aggravated misdemeanor. A fourth or subsequent conviction within a 10-year period becomes a felony and is punished by a fine not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000 and imprisonment not less than 12 months nor more than 10 years.

Anyone fleeing the police who causes an accident, passes a school bus camera, is drag racing, or is found to be reckless driving is guilty of a felony and punished by a fine of at least \$5,000, but no more than \$10,000. That person is also subject to imprisonment for not less than 12 months nor more than 10 years.

HB 1219 Georgia Board of Dentistry; revise composition

By: Rep. Penny Houston (170th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 1219 increases the number of members of the Board of Dentistry from 11 to 17. The number of members who are dentists increases from nine to 13 and the number of members who are dental hygienists increases from one to two. The bill also adds a member who has direct knowledge of the education of dental students in this state appointed by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

HB 1233 Natural Resources, Department of; earliest effective date for certain rules and regulations; delay

By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th) Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1233 revises the effective date to January 1, 2022, for rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources.

HB 1233 consolidates the following species of bass under the species name of genus micropterus (black bass): smallmouth bass; shoal bass; suwannee bass; spotted bass or Kentucky bass; and redeye bass or coosa bass.

The bill limits the capacity of a shotgun used for hunting migratory game birds to not more than three shells total. The plug utilized shall be a single piece and incapable of being removed through the loading end of the magazine. The bill replaces ducks, geese, or swans with the umbrella term of "migratory game birds."

HB 1275 Local government; appointment and removal of municipal court judges; revise provisions

By: Rep. Bonnie Rich (97th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1275 amends Chapter 32 of Title 36 of the Code to revise provisions concerning municipal courts and municipal court judges. The bill authorizes municipal corporations, both in consolidated and municipal governments, to appoint a qualified individual to serve for the remainder of an unexpired term created by a vacancy. The bill amends the Code section pertaining to removal of municipal court judges by requiring that a judge subject to removal proceedings be served by certified mail or overnight delivery with a petition for removal that states the cause(s) for termination in sufficient detail, the names of known witnesses, and a concise summary of the evidence to be used against the judge. The judge shall be entitled to counsel at the judge's expense and the hearing shall be recorded at the municipal corporation's expense. The chief judge of the relevant local superior court circuit shall appoint a senior superior or state court judge to preside at the removal hearing.

HB 1276 Community Health, Department of; statistical reports data relating to state health plans be posted on department website; require

By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1276 requires the Department of Community Health to post on its website statistical reports with data relating to administered state health plans. Reports must include the number and type of enrolled providers; primary care providers per 1,000 people; hospital utilization and costs; membership and beneficiary enrollment data; prescription drug spending data; financial results by aid category; and long-term care data. Updates on the reports will be posted at least biannually.

HB 1283 Quality Basic Education Act; recess for students in kindergarten and grades one through five; provide

By: Rep. Demetrius Douglas (78th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1283 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-323 to provide for recess every day for students in kindergarten and grades one through five beginning in the 2022-2023 School Year. Recess is not required on any school day in which a student has had physical education or for other reasons. Each local education board shall establish written policies on recess.

HB 1303 Education; transition a pilot program for elementary agricultural education to an ongoing program

By: Rep. Robert Dickey (140th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 1303 revises a pilot program for agricultural education in elementary schools to transition the pilot to an optional ongoing program. The Department of Education will provide a program evaluation to the House and Senate related committees by December 31, 2022.

HB 1304 Georgia Caregivers Act; create

By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1304, the 'Georgia Caregivers Act,' allows inpatients to designate at least one caregiver to be involved in the patient's discharge planning process. The hospital will notify the caregiver of the patient's discharge, and failure to make contact will not interfere with appropriate medical care or discharge. The caregiver and patient will be actively engaged by the hospital in discharge planning tailored to the patient's aftercare needs.

HB 1308 Insurance; allow plan sponsor to consent on behalf of an enrollee to electronic delivery of all communication

By: Rep. Noel Williams (148th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1308 allows a sponsor of a health benefit plan to consent on behalf of an enrollee to the electronic delivery of all communications and identification cards related to the plan. Enrollees can opt out of electronic communications.

HB 1323 Upson County; ad valorem tax for county purposes; provide homestead exemption

By: Rep. Beth Camp (131st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1323 provides a \$14,000 Upson County homestead exemption for county purposes for those who are 65 years of age and older.

HB 1324 Health and insurance; clarify that the prudent layperson standard is not affected by the diagnoses given

By: Rep. Beth Camp (131st) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1324 requires insurers to provide coverage for emergency physical or mental health care regardless of the diagnosis given.

HB 1331 State Employment Service and the Employment Security Administration Fund; change certain provisions

By: Rep. Steven Meeks (178th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 1331 allows the governor's designee to serve as the administrator of the State Employment Service program, the person responsible for fulfilling state duties under the federal 'Wagner-Peyser Act,' and the designee to the U.S. Department of Labor for purposes of the federal 'Wagner-Peyser Act'. Money in the Employment Security Administration Fund is available to the governor's designee, and any transfer from the fund by the commissioner of the Department of Labor is at the discretion of the governor's designee.

HB 1346 Courts; clerks of superior courts; provide for construction

By: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1346 permits clerks of superior courts, who would otherwise be prohibited from practicing law in his/her name, to serve as a judge advocate or any other role in an active duty or reserve component of the armed forces.

- HB 1349 Natural Resources, Dept. of; attempt to prevent net loss of land acreage available for hunting on state owned lands; extend date**
By: Rep. Jason Ridley (6th) Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1349 changes the qualifying date from July 1, 2005, to July 1, 2022, for land the Department of Natural Resources shall withhold from actions that result in the loss of state-owned acreage available for hunting.
- HB 1355 Childhood Lead Exposure Control Act; revise**
By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1355 updates several provisions relating to lead poisoning testing and remediation. The bill reduces the required blood level of lead that would prompt public health action from 20 to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter, which can be detected through a single venous blood test or two capillary blood tests taken within 12 weeks of each other.
- HB 1361 Civil practice; Attorney General is to be served and heard in defense of all Acts of the General Assembly when challenged in any court action; clarify**
By: Rep. Rob Leverett (33rd) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1361 requires that if a General Assembly act is alleged to be unconstitutional or invalid in an action, the attorney general shall be served with a copy and shall be entitled to be heard in defense of the act, including appearing as a party if deemed appropriate by the attorney general.
- HB 1385 Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office; revise annexation reporting requirements**
By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1385 requires municipalities to notify the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office of the General Assembly when annexing property, enlarging municipal corporation limits, and annexing unincorporated islands.
- HB 1390 Labor and industrial relations; right of action against a county or city employer for retaliation; provide**
By: Rep. Teri Anulewicz (42nd) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1390 provides a cause of action for individuals working for a local government if that local government (county, municipal, or consolidated) takes a work-related adverse reaction against the individual because that individual has opposed sexual harassment, filed a complaint related to sexual harassment, or participated or planned to participate in an action or proceeding related to sexual harassment.
- HB 1391 Criminal procedure; compensation for public defenders and assistant public defenders; revise**
By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1391 sets the salary of the circuit public defenders to the same salary as district attorneys. The maximum salary for an assistant public defender IV is raised to 95% of the circuit public defender salary.
- HB 1405 The Zoning Procedures Law; revise**
By: Rep. Shea Roberts (52nd) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1405 revises the 'Zoning Procedures Law' to establish procedures and notice requirements for specified zoning hearings before quasi-judicial officers, boards, or agencies.
- HB 1409 Labor and industrial relations; workers' compensation benefits; change certain provisions**
By: Rep. William Werkheiser (157th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1409 increases the maximum amount of benefits that an employee can receive under workers' compensation for temporary total disability to \$725 per week, and the maximum amount of benefits for temporary partial disability to \$483 per week. The maximum total compensation for the surviving spouse of an employee who died from injury is increased to \$290,000.

HB 1428 Code Revision Commission; revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions

By: Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th) Through the Code Revision Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1428 is the annual Code revision clean-up bill to revise, modernize, and correct errors or omissions to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The bill reflects the work of the Code Revision Commission to repeal portions of the Code that are obsolete, declared unconstitutional, or preempted or superseded by subsequent laws. Lastly, the bill provides for other matters relating to revision, reenactment, and publication of the Code.

HB 1433 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; revise and update composition of advisory board

By: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1433 changes the composition of the advisory board to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to include the following: representatives of programs that advocate alternatives to incarceration; persons licensed or certified by the state with competence in preventing and addressing mental health and substance abuse issues in delinquent youth and at-risk youth; and representatives of victim or witness advocacy groups, including at least one individual with expertise in addressing the challenges of sexual abuse and exploitation and trauma.

HB 1435 Education; needs based financial aid program; eligibility for students with a financial aid gap

By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1435 amends O.C.G.A. 20-3-360 to include eligibility for a needs-based financial aid program for full and part-time undergraduate students with a financial aid gap. A "financial aid gap" is defined in the bill as the monetary amount remaining after other funding for the cost of attendance certified by a qualified institution. Qualified students are those who: have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); are eligible for a scholarship or grant; and have completed 80% of the credit requirements toward the credential of their study program. Qualified institutions include all schools in the University System of Georgia, Technical College System of Georgia, and non-proprietary institutions eligible for Tuition Equalization Grants. The bill clarifies the maximum award amount to be \$2,500 in total per each eligible student. HB 1435 has a sunset date of June 30, 2025.

HB 1441 Professions and businesses; exempt a certified peace officer employed as an independent contractor from certain requirements

By: Rep. J. Collins (68th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1441, relating to operators of private detective and security businesses, removes the requirement that licensees certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) must also obtain a license to serve as a guard, watchman, or patrolman.

HB 1444 Coweta Judicial Circuit; Superior Court; change supplemental salaries for judges

By: Rep. Randy Nix (69th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1444 changes the supplemental salaries of the judges of the Coweta Judicial Circuit. Carroll County shall pay \$18,000 per year per judge; Coweta County shall pay \$17,000 per year per judge; Heard County shall pay \$2,000 per year per judge; Meriwether County shall pay \$3,500 per year per judge; and Troup County shall pay \$9,500 per year per judge.

HB 1452 Domestic relations; dating violence protective orders; revise a definition

By: Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1452 changes dating relationship protective orders so that the definition of "dating violence" includes those who were in a relationship within the last 12 months rather than the current six-month timeframe.

- HB 1461 Local government; annexation of territory; revise provisions relating to dispute resolution**
By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1461 requires a municipal corporation to provide notice of a petition of annexation to any impacted school system. The bill provides proposed annexation objection and arbitration guidelines and procedures for impacted school systems and county governing authorities.
- HB 1516 Georgia Music Hall of Fame Authority; provide for definitions; provisions**
By: Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) Through the Creative Arts & Entertainment Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1516 repeals provisions for joint operations between the Georgia Music Hall of Fame and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and instead allows for joint operations between the Georgia Music Hall of Fame Authority and the Classic Center Authority.
- HB 1566 Berrien County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee**
By: Rep. Penny Houston (170th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1566 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Berrien County Probate Court.
- HB 1568 Walton County Public Facilities Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1568 creates the Walton County Public Facilities Authority.
- HB 1579 Woodland, City of; provide new charter**
By: Rep. Debbie Buckner (137th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1579 provides a new charter for the city of Woodland.
- HB 1593 Jackson, City of; provide for a city manager**
By: Rep. Clint Crowe (110th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1593 provides for a city manager for the city of Jackson.
- HB 1595 Fayette County; State Court; change compensation of judge and solicitor**
By: Rep. Josh Bonner (72nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1595 changes the compensation of the Fayette County State Court judge to receive an amount equal to 90% of the base salary of a judge of the superior courts of the state, plus 90% of the supplement paid to superior court judges of the Griffin Judicial Circuit.
- HB 1596 Fayette County; State Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee**
By: Rep. Josh Bonner (72nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1596 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Fayette County State Court.
- HB 1601 Echols County; Board of Commissioners; increase size**
By: Rep. John Corbett (174th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1601 increases the size of the Echols County Board of Commissioners.
- HR 593 Perry, Mr. Dennis Arnold; compensate**
By: Rep. Don Hogan (179th) Through the Appropriations Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 593 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay \$1,230,000 to Dennis Arnold Perry as compensation for his wrongful conviction. After an initial payment of \$307,500, the remainder shall be paid in the form of a 20-year annuity. All payments are exempt from state income tax and shall continue to be paid to Dennis Arnold Perry's estate upon his death.

HR 594 County and municipal governing authorities; grant temporary tax relief to properties severely damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster and located within a nationally declared disaster area; provide - CA*By: Rep. Lynn Smith (70th)**Through the Ways & Means Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 594 amends Article VII, Section I of the Constitution by authorizing the governing authority of each county, municipality, and consolidated government and the board of education of each independent and county school system in this state to grant temporary tax relief to properties that are severely damaged or destroyed as a result of a natural disaster and that are located within a nationally declared disaster area. The resolution also includes the required ballot language to ratify this amendment.

HR 626 Robinson, Kerry; compensate*By: Rep. Scott Holcomb (81st)**Through the Appropriations Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 626 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay \$480,000 to Kerry Robinson as compensation for his wrongful conviction. After an initial payment of \$120,000, the remainder shall be paid in the form of a 20-year annuity. All payments are exempt from state income tax and shall continue to be paid to Kerry Robinson's estate upon his death.

HR 650 House Study Committee on Literacy Instruction; create*By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th)**Through the Education Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 650 creates the House Study Committee on Literacy Instruction. The committee consists of five members of the House of Representatives and nine non-legislative members who are tasked with determining the definition of evidence-based instruction, the impact of low literacy on Georgia's economic and workforce competitiveness, and the extent of different programs in Georgia that work in birth through retirement literacy instruction. Additionally, the committee shall examine how programs that utilize evidence-based literacy instruction can adapt as new evidence emerges, examine changes that should be made to educational standards to support evidence-based instruction; and determine how the state can best support local educational ecosystems. The committee is abolished on December 1, 2022.

HR 820 James J. Boss Memorial Roundabout; Barrow County; dedicate*By: Rep. Terry England (116th)**Through the Transportation Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HR 820 is the annual road facility dedication package and includes the following dedications:

HR 820, dedicating the intersection of State Route 211 and Old Hog Mountain/Covered Bridge Road in Barrow County as the James J. Boss Memorial Roundabout;

HR 572, dedicating the portion of State Route 139 from Church Street to State Route 85 in Clayton County as the Gold Star Fathers of Georgia Highway;

HR 573, dedicating the portion of State Route 54 from the Clayton/Fayette line to U.S. 41 in Clayton County as the Arnold Fountain Professional Club Highway;

HR 574, dedicating the bridge on State Route 70 at Interstate 285 in Fulton County as the Rev. Joseph Jones Sr. and Darnella Jones Memorial Bridge;

HR 582, dedicating the portion of State Route 372 from Ball Ground Highway to Interstate 575 in Cherokee and Pickens counties as the Roger William Cavender Memorial Highway;

HR 628, dedicating the intersection of State Route 78 and Oak Drive in Gwinnett County as the SPC Etienne J. Murphy Memorial Intersection;

HR 649, dedicating the intersection of State Route 1/U.S. 27 and Little Texas Valley Road in Floyd County as the Judge Larry Salmon Memorial Intersection;

HR 668, dedicating the interchange of Interstate 575 at Exit 11 in Cherokee County as the Joseph W. Burson Memorial Bridge;

HR 685, dedicating the State Route 11/Social Circle Bypass bridge at the Little River in Walton County as the

Sgt. James Terry Savage Memorial Bridge;

HR 706, dedicating the bridge on State Route 109 over Gola Creek in Pike County as the Rex J. Yerkes Memorial Bridge;

HR 708, dedicating the portion of State Route 53 from the Hall/Forsyth County line to Little Hall Road in Hall County as the Officer Bobbie Sue Hoenie Memorial Highway;

HR 757, dedicating the portion of State Route 26 from mile marker 15 to mile marker 16 in Marion County as the Memorial Mile for Sheriff Horace Irving Snider;

HR 771, dedicating the intersection of State Route 8 and State Route 378/Beaver Ruin Road in Gwinnett County as the SPC Adam L. Harrell Memorial Intersection;

HR 818, dedicating the intersection at State Route 48 and State Route 157 in Chattooga County as the Bobby Lee Cook Memorial Intersection;

HR 819, dedicating the bridge on State Route 51 over the Middle Fork Broad River in Franklin County as the Fred Pulliam Memorial Bridge;

HR 821, dedicating the portion of State Route 211 from the intersection of Old Hog Mountain Road/Covered Bridge Road to the Little Mulberry River Bridge in Barrow County as the Seixas Milner Memorial Highway;

HR 897, dedicating the portion of State Route 144 from mile marker 6 to mile marker 11 in Tattnall County as the Quinton Rush Highway;

HR 620, providing a spelling correction to an existing dedication for the Charlie D. Rogers Memorial Highway WW II - US Navy;

HR 621, providing a title to an existing dedication for the Hugh L. Moore Memorial Bridge, WW II MIA Purple Heart Recipient;

SR 648, dedicating the intersection of State Route 54 and Ebenezer Road in Fayette County as the Ronald Davis Memorial Intersection;

SR 649, dedicating the intersection of U.S. 19 and Old Zebulon Road in Pike County as the Jerry C. Colwell Memorial Intersection;

SR 665, dedicating the portion of State Route 120/Dallas Highway from John Ward Road to Barrett Parkway in Cobb County as the C.W. and Myrtle Matthews Memorial Highway;

SR 684, dedicating the portion of State Route 155 from Commerce Place to College Street in Henry County as the Joeann Compton Highway;

SR 682, dedicating the interchange of Interstate 75 at Bethlehem Road (GDOT Project #0017182) in Henry County as the Cheri Hobson-Matthews and Andrew Jackson Welch III Interchange;

SR 742, dedicating the bridge on State Route 100 over the Tallapoosa River in Haralson County as the Sammy Robinson Bridge;

SR 749, dedicating the bridge on State Route 54 over the Flint River near Thomas Road in Clayton County as the Jesse Thomas Blalock Bridge;

SR 752, dedicating the intersection of State Route 71 and Wolfe Street/Old Dalton Cleveland Highway in Whitfield County as the Ethel Oliver "Granny" Rogers Memorial Intersection; and

Unnumbered SR, dedicating the intersection of State Route 341 and Lee Clarkson Road in Walker County as the Senator Jeff Mullis Intersection.

- SB 10 "Jaye Mize Law"; promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags; provide for an offense**
By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: Section I makes it a felony offense to impersonate an officer of the court with punishment of imprisonment of between one to five years, a maximum fine of \$1,000, or both.
- Section II makes it a crime to intentionally, secretly place or direct someone else to place a global positioning system (GPS) on a motor vehicle when the car owner or lessee has a protective order against the person placing the GPS.
- Section III provides discretion to judges when a person fails to appear for court to order that person's driver's license to be reinstated in lieu of the case being fully adjudicated, and allows the court to waive the reinstatement fee. The uniform traffic citation is also amended so that failure to appear may result in suspension of the driver's license.
- SB 84 Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; certain communications officers shall be eligible for membership in such fund; provide**
By: Sen. John Albers (56th) Through the Retirement Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 84 allows certain communications officers, who are certified or maintain compliance with Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council's rules and regulations, to become members of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. The bill also directs .75% of 9-1-1 charges remitted to the Department of Revenue to the fund. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuarial investigation determines there is no cost to this legislation, as the increased revenues to the fund cover the cost of expanding membership.
- SB 87 "Senator Jack Hill Veterans' Act"; enact**
By: Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 87, the 'Senator Jack Hill Veterans' Act,' offers taxpayers the opportunity to contribute to the Technical College System of Georgia Foundation through the Department of Revenue. Taxpayers may elect on their income tax form to authorize the Department of Revenue to reduce the amount of the refund check or increase the amount owed by the desired contribution. The Department of Revenue shall transmit all funds received to the Technical College System of Georgia Foundation to be used exclusively to award scholarships to veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- SB 96 Notaries Public; identification of persons for whom notaries perform notarial acts shall be evidenced; valid Veterans Health Identification Card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; provide**
By: Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 96 allows notaries to accept a valid Veterans Health Identification Card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as confirmation of identity.
- SB 116 Children and Youth Services; registration of maternity supportive house residences to provide housing for pregnant women; provide**
By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 116 allows for registration of maternity-supportive housing residences providing housing for pregnant and postpartum women aged 18 years or older. Registrants pay a \$250 registration fee to the Department of Human Services, and registration certificates are valid for one year. The department will not have authority to implement regulations for registration of maternity homes, but can maintain submitted records. No municipality can constrain the establishment of a maternity home to an extent beyond that of a single-family residence. Non-profits administering housing can partner with other organizations or agencies to provide wraparound services for residents.
- SB 120 Solicitors-General of State Courts; honorary office of solicitor-general emeritus; provide**
By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 120, the 'Ethics in Government Act of 2021,' revises Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Code. Definitions are provided to clarify terms already in the chapter. Restrictions on the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission's authority to require additional reporting information are limited to campaign disclosure reports and personal financial statements. The ability for

commission staff attorneys to initiate complaints and the commission's ability to initiate investigations based on such complaints are clarified.

No current or former members of the General Assembly shall be eligible to qualify for reelection until and unless all fines and fees owing to the commission have been paid, all disclosure reports due have been filed, and all outstanding taxes have been paid.

Deadlines for the commencement of actions by the commission for alleged violations are specified to coincide with the term of office and the occurrence of the violation, as opposed to the filing of a report containing such violation. Retention periods for accounts maintained by a candidate or treasurer of a campaign committee are clarified. Provisions regarding the allowable disposition of contributions are amended to include the transfer of contributions to political action committees.

The bill makes clear that a candidate may not utilize campaign funds for the purpose of making loans or investments directly to: the candidate; a member of the candidate's family; any business in which the candidate or a member of the candidate's family has an ownership interest; the candidate's trust or a trust of a member of the candidate's family; or any non-profit organization of which the candidate or a member of the candidate's family is on the payroll or has a controlling interest.

Updates of contribution limits by the commission will now be made after each gubernatorial election cycle, instead of each and every election cycle. The bill specifies when a candidate shall be deemed to have advanced to a subsequent election to clarify when the candidate may access contributions made for the subsequent election.

Public officers who have filed a financial disclosure statement within the previous year are exempted from having to submit an affidavit confirming that they took no official action in the previous calendar year that had a material effect on their private financial or business interests. Candidates seeking election as a public officer are now subject to the same requirement to file financial disclosure statements as the incumbent officers. Financial disclosure statements for candidates of statewide elected office shall be accompanied by a financial statement of the candidate's financial affairs for the five calendar years prior to the year that the election is held. The financial disclosure statements must also include the source or sources of the candidate's income.

Finally, the bill clarifies that lobbyists must file supplemental registration prior to any substantial or material change or addition in their registration.

SB 152 State and Other Flags; pledge of allegiance to the state flag; add language
By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 152 updates the wording of the pledge of allegiance to the state flag.

SB 164 HIV Tests; modernization of HIV related laws to align with science; provide
By: Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 164 modernizes human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) laws. These revisions ensure that laws and policies support current understanding of best public health practices for preventing and treating HIV, scientific evidence about routes of transmission, and the public health goals of promoting HIV prevention and treatment.

Additionally, this bill provides that persons charged with exposing someone to HIV through sexual acts must express the intent to transmit HIV and pose a significant risk of transmission based on current scientifically supported levels of risk of transmission. Furthermore, this bill removes criminal penalties for people living with HIV who share hypodermic needles or syringes.

SB 226 Sale or Distribution of Harmful Materials to Minors; provisions of Code Section 16-12-103 shall be applicable to libraries operated by schools; provide
By: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 226 requires local boards of education to create a complaint resolution policy for local schools by January 1, 2023. The complaint resolution policy must allow parents or guardians to submit complaints to the school's principal, or the principal's designee, regarding inappropriate content that is harmful to minors and available to the students at the school. The school's principal or designee is required to investigate whether the material is harmful to minors within seven business days from receipt of the complaint, and within 10 business days of the complaint, the school principal or designee must confer with the parent or guardian and

inform him or her whether the material was deemed to be harmful and whether access will be removed or restricted moving forward.

Appeals to a decision under this policy will be heard by the local board of education within 30 days receipt of a written appeal. If a local board of education determines the text or material at issue in an appeal is harmful to minors, the title of that text or material shall be available for electronic review on the website of the local board of education within 15 business days from the determination date and will be available for at least one year afterward. If the appealed material is physical in nature, then a parent can view that content in person at the school's media center.

SB 333 Education; agents and agent's permits; to repeal definitions of such terms; provisions; remove

By: Sen. John Albers (56th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 333 amends O.C.G.A 20-3-250 relating to nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions. The bill expands educational institutions exempted from application of general provisions to include institutions offering education or training through employment experiences or other short courses that do not specifically grant degrees. SB 333 removes language related to agents and agent's permits, updating how these apply to nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions. Institutions applying to operate postsecondary activities are required to have a financial assessment, and the director of the commission can impose or eliminate bond requirements based on that. The bonds must have a rating of at least a B+.

SB 333 revises Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund participation requirements. Under current law, postsecondary institutions, which were first authorized to operate in Georgia on or after July 1, 1990, were required to participate in the trust fund for five years, but under the provisions of this bill, the institution is required to participate for seven years. SB 333 eliminates the cap on the trust fund, removes bankruptcy of a participating institution as grounds for reimbursements from the trust fund, and prohibits one institution from using more than 10% of the total trust fund unless authorized by a two-thirds majority vote of the commission. SB 333 increases the balance of the trust fund from \$500,000 to at least \$10 million by July 1, 2040.

SB 337 Public Officers; suspension of compensation because of indictment for a felony; provide

By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 337 discontinues compensation for a public official if the official is suspended as a result of a felony indictment.

SB 338 Medicaid; postpartum coverage under Medicaid from six months to one year following birth; increase

By: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 338 extends the period of postpartum Medicaid coverage from six months to one year after delivery.

SB 340 Hospital Authorities and Designated Teaching Hospitals; definitions; revise

By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 340 updates provisions related to medical education accreditation by replacing the "American Medical Association" with the "Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education" as the accrediting body, as well as removing the 50-resident program requirement.

SB 343 Retirement; prohibition of granting postretirement benefit adjustments to any individual who became a member on or after July 1, 2009; remove

By: Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 343 specifies that forfeited leave payments for retirements that become effective after July 1, 2022 are not paid by the employer; instead, these payments will be factored into actuarial assumptions for the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia (ERS) and paid as part of the annual defined employer contribution. Currently, employers contribute amounts relating to creditable service for forfeited leave payments. The bill also changes the 401(k) match for the Georgia State Employees' Pension and Savings Plan (GSEPS). Employers will contribute up to a maximum of 5% of the employee's salary and 0.5% for each year of the member's creditable service after five years, for a maximum employer match of 9% at 13 years. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

- SB 345 State Government; state and local governments from mandating vaccine passports; prohibit**
By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 345 prohibits state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of providing services, accessing a facility, issuing licenses or permits, performing duties, and other matters. Exceptions are applied if compliance violates Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regulations or federal contracts relating to workplace locations.
- SB 346 Department of Administrative Services; companies owned or operated by China to bid on or submit a proposal for a state contract; prohibit**
By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 346 requires a company that submits to the state a bid or a contract proposal to certify that the company is not a Chinese government affiliated entity or owned or operated by the government of China. A company's false certification results in civil liability, termination of contract, and ineligibility for future contracts.
- SB 358 Georgia Public Safety Training Center; reimbursement of certain costs incurred by active duty, retired, or honorably discharged members of the US armed forces who are attending basic law enforcement training; provide**
By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 358 authorizes the Georgia Public Safety Training Center to use funds to reimburse or provide for certain costs incurred in training active duty, retired, or honorably discharged members of the United States Armed Forces who are attending basic law enforcement training to the extent that funds are appropriated by the General Assembly. Eligible costs are limited exclusively to the cost of tuition incurred in connection with such training if the cost is not covered by any other resource available to the service member.
- SB 361 "Law Enforcement Strategic Support Act" or "LESS Crime Act"; enact**
By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 361 establishes a tax credit for contributions to "501(c)(3) law enforcement foundations", which are defined as being any domestic non-profit corporation with the sole function of supporting one local law enforcement unit through a formal relationship with such local law enforcement unit. Taxpayers are allowed a 100% income tax credit for qualified donations to law enforcement foundations provided that a single individual or head of household shall not be allowed a credit of more than \$5,000; a married couple, individual who is a member of a limited liability company, a shareholder of a Subchapter 'S' corporation, or a partner in a partnership shall not be allowed a credit of more than \$10,000; and a corporation shall not be allowed a credit of more than 75% of the corporation's income tax liability. This tax credit has an annual aggregate cap of \$75 million and a per law enforcement foundation cap of \$3 million per year. Qualified expenditures by the law enforcement foundations include bonus payments or training of law enforcement officers; purchase, lease, maintenance, or improvement of equipment to be used by law enforcement officers; or costs incurred by the local law enforcement unit for the operation of an emergency response team that combines law enforcement officers and behavioral health specialists.
- SB 363 "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975,"; class action suits and for damages for violating the requirements for solicitations for corporate filings; provide**
By: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 363 requires solicitations related to corporate filings or employment/labor posters or notices to be labeled as solicitations. Notice that the material is a solicitation and not an official government document shall be on the front of any envelope and include at the top of the page that the solicitation has not been sent by the Secretary of State or the Department of Labor. A violation of this Code section may be brought in a representative capacity and may be the subject of a class action, with damages being the actual damages or \$200, whichever is greater.

- SB 369 Board of Education of Gwinnett County; future elections for members of the board of education shall be nonpartisan; provide**
By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 369 provides that future elections of the Gwinnett Board of Education are non-partisan.
- SB 379 State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia; establish a program to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the state; provide**
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) Through the Higher Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 379 amends the O.C.G.A. by adding a new article, 20-4-150, that establishes a program to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the state. The "High-demand Career Initiatives Program" is under the Office of Workforce Development and has the purpose of incentivizing apprenticeship sponsors to establish new or grow existing registered apprenticeship programs in Georgia in order to expand high-quality work-based learning experiences in high-demand fields and careers. Upon successful completion of the requirements under a contract of an employer sponsor, the sponsor receives a completion reward up to \$10,000 per apprentice.
- SB 396 Georgia State Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); rename such program the Georgia Grown Farm to Food Bank Program (F2FB)**
By: Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 396 renames the Georgia State Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to the Georgia Grown Farm to Food Bank Program (F2FB). The bill sets the price of produce purchased through the program at the seller's input plus one-half of appreciation costs. Each Georgia Grown product purveyor, producer, or processor from which the program procured food shall be included in a required annual report submitted by an entity contracted with the Department of Agriculture for the F2FB program.
- SB 397 General Educational Development (GED) Diplomas; update and replace terminology; state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diplomas; provide**
By: Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) Through the Higher Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 397 amends Titles 15, 20, 25, 40, 42, and 43 to replace "general educational development (GED) diplomas" with "state approved high school equivalency (HSE)." Current law provides for a HOPE GED voucher issued upon the receipt of a GED diploma, but SB 397 renames the HOPE GED voucher as the HOPE HSE voucher and shifts the payment of those funds to the cost of taking an approved exam rather than upon receipt of the diploma.
- SB 403 "Georgia Behavioral Health and Peace Officer Co-Responder Act"; enact**
By: Sen. Ben Watson (1st) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 403 requires each community service board (CSB) to establish a co-responder program to work with local law enforcement agencies responding to emergency calls involving people in a behavioral health crisis. Law enforcement agencies have the option to collaborate with co-responder programs and can consider input from the CSB when determining where to refer the individual. Community service board team members must be available in person or virtually during related emergency calls. Emergency facilities that receive individuals transported by the team for evaluation are required to notify the CSB prior to release of the admitted individual. Any law enforcement agency or CSB, along with their personnel, is immune from civil or criminal liability for actions done in good faith related to team dispatch, incarceration of an individual, transportation to an emergency receiving facility, and not taking someone into custody.
- SB 404 Emergency Medical Services Personnel; Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to retain certain fingerprints under certain conditions; authorize**
By: Sen. John Albers (56th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 404 authorizes the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to retain fingerprints when the Department of Public Health is obtaining the prints for a program where criminal background checks are authorized for the purpose of determining suitability for employment, placement, registration, a permit, or a license for an agency or entity participating in the federal program, and allows for the ongoing review of the individual's criminal history as it relates to emergency medical services personnel. The department is required to notify the fingerprinted individual of the retention.

- SB 434 Board of Commissioners of Warren County; description of the commissioner districts; change**
By: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 434 changes the description of the Warren County Board of Commissioners' districts.
- SB 438 Contracts; certain provisions relating to retainage of progress payments; change**
By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 438 alters the retainage amount for progress payments on public works construction contracts, from the current formula of 10% of the value of the completed work until 50% of the contract is completed, to a new formula of 5% throughout the contract.
- SB 441 Courts; reestablishment of the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board as an advisory board to The Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia; provide**
By: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 441 is the 'Criminal Records Responsibility Act.' This bill moves the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board, established in 2018 under the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, to the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia as an advisory board. The Council of Superior Court Clerks is required to submit the uniform standards adopted by the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board to the judges. The board consists of 19 members who meet quarterly and serve without compensation, except for the reimbursement of expenses. The board is required to create uniform standards for the creation and transmission of electronic criminal history data between local and state justice agencies. Data includes: arrests; indictments; accusations; information; and final dispositions from convictions. Further, the board must make recommendations and carry out duties to receive and disburse federal funds for criminal case data exchange and management. By November 1, 2022, the board must make a recommendation for adoption of an automated system for notifications to victims in certain situations. Further, the bill adds a requirement that district attorneys or solicitors-general are required to ensure disposition information is submitted when a final disposition decision is made by a district attorney or solicitor-general. The bill also adds a duty that the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) advise and update the policies to reflect the uniform standards issued by the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia. GCIC is required to provide to each clerk of superior court a quarterly report that details the number of open criminal charges, time expired restricted charges, and closed criminal charges of each county. The reports must also be presented to judges or prosecutors upon request.
- Finally, the bill provides original jurisdiction to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) to identify and investigate election-related claims if there is sufficient evidence to change or place in doubt the result of an election. In an election-related investigation, the GBI director, assistant director, and deputy director for investigations are authorized to issue a subpoena, with the consent of the attorney general, to compel the production of books, papers, documents, or other tangible items.
- SB 445 National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974; civil penalties; revise**
By: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) Through the Regulated Industries Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 445 amends the state civil penalties available for violations of the 'National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974' by removing the \$1,000 maximum penalty and replacing it with the penalty set by federal regulation in 24 C.F.R. Section 3282.10.
- SB 461 Bails, Bonds; human trafficking as aailable offense; add the offense**
By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 461 adds human trafficking-related crimes in O.C.G.A. 16-5-46 to the list of crimes that only a superior court judge can set bail for.

- SB 469 Watercraft; certain watercraft to have day and night visual distress signals on board when on coastal waters of Georgia; require**
By: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 469 aligns Georgia law with federal law regarding requirements related to visual distress signals and floatation devices.
- SB 470 Mortgage Lenders and Brokers; different categories of felony convictions for purposes of investigations of mortgage loan originator applicants; provide**
By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) Through the Banks & Banking Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 470 replaces the term "agent" with the term "covered employee" in the list of persons the Department of Banking and Finance shall revoke mortgage licenses to because of a felony conviction. "Covered employee" is defined as a mortgage lender or broker employee involved in residential mortgage loan-related activities for Georgia properties who has access to loan origination, processing, or underwriting information.
- SB 479 Firearms by Convicted Felons and First Offender Probationers; each firearm in the possession or attempted possession of certain offenders shall be charged as a separate offense; specify**
By: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 479 increases the penalty for those who: are on probation as a felony first offender, are on probation for a felony, or have been convicted of a felony in Georgia or elsewhere; and receive, possess, or transport a firearm. This bill makes it a separate violation for each firearm that is connected to the crime.
- SB 486 Agricultural Commodity Commission for Propane; full or partial remote communication with regard to public hearings; provide**
By: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 486 allows any meeting of the Agricultural Commodity Commission for Propane to be held in-person, remotely, or a combination of in-person and remote. Notice of a hearing shall be provided on the commission's website and in the Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin, or a similar publication.

SB 486 changes the process of adopting an assessment to require a minimum response rate of 25% of notified eligible dealers and two-thirds of eligible votes cast in favor of the assessment.
- SB 493 Time-Share Projects and Programs; nonjudicial foreclosure of time-share estates; authorize**
By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 493 authorizes non-judicial foreclosures of time-share estates by an owners' association. The notice of sale shall be in writing sent by registered/certified mail or overnight delivery no later than 30 days prior to the date of the proposed sale, or alternatively by advertising in a local newspaper.
- SB 496 Death Investigations; medical examiner's inquiry when a pregnant female dies and an inquest; require**
By: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 496 requires a medical examiner's inquiry in cases where a woman dies within 365 days of being pregnant. This requirement is waived in cases when such woman dies from the result of a motor vehicle accident or when the cause of death is known. Coroners or medical examiners notified of such death are required to order an inquiry through a regional perinatal center.
- SB 500 Commerce; a litigation bar on governmental entities regarding certain statewide opioid litigation; provide**
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 500 concerns statewide opioid settlements and the state accessing the full amount of any settlement. It provides that entry into a statewide opioid settlement agreement bars past, present, or future claims on behalf of any governmental entity seeking to recover against an entity released under the

relevant settlement agreement. The bar does not apply to bellwether claims of any entity, provided the claim is not brought in or selected by the court in relationship to the National Prescription Opiate Litigation, Case No.: MDL 2804 as a bellwether claim.

- SB 539 Wiretapping, Eavesdropping, Surveillance; use of any device to photograph or record patients in a health care facility shall be unlawful; provide**
By: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 539 amends O.C.G.A. 16-11-62 to prohibit the unknowing photography or recording of activities of patients that occur in a facility operated by a county board of health without the consent of all patients observed. The punishment is a felony with imprisonment of between one to five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both.
- SB 543 Wrongful Death; a parent who is determined to be responsible for the homicide of his or her child shall have no right of recovery against the value of the child's life; provide**
By: Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 543 clarifies Georgia's slayer statute by prohibiting an individual who kills, conspires to kill, or procures the killing of another from subsequently claiming a right to recover from the decedent's estate.
- SB 547 Carrollton Board of Education; the description of the education wards; change**
By: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 547 changes the description of the education wards of the Carrollton Independent School System.
- SB 549 City of Carrollton; description of the election wards for the city council; change**
By: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 549 changes the description of the election wards for the Carrollton City Council.
- SB 553 Watercraft; any person 15 years of age or older to operate a Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 vessel; authorize**
By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 553 allows a person 15 years or older to operate a Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 vessel on state waters if the individual has proper identification or an instruction permit and is accompanied by an adult that is 18 years or older. The accompanying adult must also be authorized to operate the vessel and be able to take control of the vessel.
- SB 562 Department of Administrative Services; companies owned or operated by Russia to bid on or submit a proposal for a state contract; prohibit**
By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 562 prohibits companies owned or operated by the governments of Russia or Belarus from bidding on or submitting a proposal for a state contract. The bill requires a company that submits a bid or a contract proposal to certify that the company is not owned or operated by the governments of Russia or Belarus. A company's false certification will result in civil liability, termination of contract, and ineligibility for future contracts.
- SB 566 Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act; a medical or traumatic condition includes a mental health condition or substance use disorder; emergency medical services include post-stabilization services; clarify**
By: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 566 adds mental health and substance use conditions to the definition of "emergency medical services" in order to include the conditions in the 'Surprise Billing Consumer Act.' The bill also clarifies that an emergency department visit that leads to inpatient admission is billed as one service.

- SB 573 Hospitals and Health Care Facilities; hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to utilize surgical smoke evacuation systems during surgical procedures to protect patients and health care workers from the hazards of surgical smoke; require**
By: Sen. Matt Brass (28th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 573 requires hospitals to adopt policies to reduce exposure to surgical smoke.
- SB 576 Grandparents or Family Members Visitation Rights; provisions regarding visitation actions brought by certain grandparents of minor children; revise**
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 576 relates to grandparent visitation rights and establishes that if one of the parents of a minor child dies, is incapacitated, or is incarcerated, the court may award reasonable visitation if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that it is in the best interests of the child and the health or welfare of the child is harmed unless visitation is granted. Based on an evaluation of the grandparent's relationship prior to the death, incapacitation, or incarceration of the child's parent, the court shall consider and may find that harm to the child can result from denial of visitation. A rebuttable presumption is created that a child denied contact with his or her grandparent or who is not provided minimal opportunity for contact may suffer emotional injury harmful to the child's health.
- SB 581 Property Boundary Lines; plane coordinates for defining and stating geographic position within this state as the Georgia State Plane Coordinate System; designate**
By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Through the Small Business Development Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 581 designates the Georgia State Plane Coordinate System as the system for defining and stating geographic positions for property surveying within the state. Continued use of legal descriptions under the old system remain valid in the new system designation.
- SB 586 Road Projects; the use of the design-build contracting method by counties; authorize**
By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) Through the Transportation Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 586 authorizes counties to use the design-build contracting method.
- SB 588 Local Boards of Education; all meetings of local boards of education shall be open to the public except as otherwise provided by law; provide**
By: Sen. Butch Miller (49th) Through the Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 588 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-58 to provide that all meetings of a local board of education have a public comment period on its agenda posted prior to the meeting. Each local board must set the dates of their meetings annually and make that schedule available to the public on its website. Each local board must adopt rules of conduct for public meetings and publish these in a prominent manner on its website. No member of the public is to be removed from a meeting unless there is an actual disruption of the proceedings or there is a violation of the rules of conduct established by that board. Visual and sound recordings are permitted at all public meetings of a local board of education.
- SB 605 Employment Security; certain nonprofit organizations have the option of making installment payments to finance unemployment benefits paid to its employees for certain time periods during the COVID-19 public health emergency; provide**
By: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 605 allows a non-profit organization that previously elected to make payments in lieu of contributions for unemployment insurance between January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2022, and that owes more than \$360,000 for any year to elect to make those payments over a three-year period in equal monthly installments without any penalties or interest. This option only applies to non-profit organizations that had unemployment insurance coverage during that year and the insurance provider denied coverage for unemployment claims arising from the public health emergency during that period. These provisions stand repealed on December 31, 2026.

SB 610 Department of Community Health; conduct a comprehensive review of provider reimbursement rates for home and community based services covered by the waiver programs; require
By: Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) Through the Human Relations & Aging Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 610 requires the Department of Community Health to conduct a comprehensive review every four years of provider reimbursement rates for home and community-based waiver services and programs, and propose rate models, policy changes, and fiscal projections.

SB 610 instructs the Department of Community Health to submit a waiver request to the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services allowing private mental health institutions to qualify for Medicaid reimbursement.

SB 635 Henry County; compensation of such judge of the Probate Court; change the provisions
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 635 changes provisions relating to the compensation of the Henry County Probate Court judge to an annual salary equal to 90% of the then-current total compensation, including the base salary and supplements, of the judges of the Flint Judicial Circuit.