



Georgia Senate Press Office Staff

Ines Owens
Acting Director

Brittany Wagner
Communications Specialist

Andrew Allison
Communications Associate

Elisabeth Fletcher
Communications Associate

Nick Seymour
2017 Legislative Aide

India Westbrook
2017 Legislative Aide

Yaya Toussaint
2017 Legislative Intern

201 Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
p: 404.656.0028

FOLLOW US



fb.com/GeorgiaStateSenate



@gasenatepress



@gasenatepress



GeorgiaStateSenate

This Week in the Senate

February 27 - March 3, 2017



Countdown to *Sine Die*

Our week ended Friday, March 3 with Day 28, Cross-over Day. All bills that have not passed one chamber and “crossed over” to the other by Crossover Day are ineligible for further consideration during this Legislative Session.

Senate Bill 134, the “Save, Earn, Win Act,” unanimously passed the Senate on Friday. I sponsored SB 134 to encourage personal saving. It would authorize banks and credit unions to offer a new type of savings account in which depositors, for each incremental deposit, are entered into a drawing that pays cash prizes to the

winners. Although only a few depositors will win, the “losers” will still have their savings.

Neither Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia) nor Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan) disappointed during their first bill presentations to the Senate. Sen. Tillery’s Senate Bill 130 requires that waivers to legal counsel be made “knowingly, voluntarily and on the record.” Sen. Brass’s Senate Bill 159 allows the sale of over-the-counter hearing aids to adults with mild hearing loss. All of us were impressed with Sen. Brass’s eye level responses to the questioning of Sen. Tyler Harper (R - Ocilla).

The Senate acted on two more priorities of the Senate Majority Caucus this week. Senate Bill 1 by Senate Majority Leader Bill Cowsert (R – Athens) creates a State Board of Homeland Security which would work to develop Georgia’s homeland security strategy. Senate Bill 5 would require the Georgia Lottery Corporation to increase the amount contributed to HOPE Scholarships and Pre-K tuition.

Other bills this week dealt with the criminal justice reform package, selection of jurors, opioid abuse intervention, petroleum pipelines, interstate nurse compacts and the State Road and Tollway Authority.

We will reconvene Monday for Day 29. The next two weeks will be busy, with committees meeting to begin reviewing the House Bills that crossed over. If you have any questions, comments or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sen. David J. Shafer

President Pro Tempore, Georgia Senate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Jeffrey Dallas Gay, Jr. Act

Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) sponsored Senate Bill 121 which would permit a pharmacist to dispense opioid antagonists as it is pursuant to a statewide standing order. This bill would also remove the drug Naloxone off the list of dangerous drugs and would reclassify it as a Schedule V controlled substance. SB 121 passed with a vote of 53 to 0. – **SB 121**

Eliminating Corporate Net Worth Tax

Senate Bill 133, sponsored by Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry), would exempt corporations that are valued at less than \$100,000 from paying the corporate net worth tax and eliminate the need for these corporations to have to file a return related to this tax. SB 133 passed by a vote of 38 to 16. – **SB 133**

Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax

Senate Bill 156, sponsored by Sen. Fran Millar (R – Atlanta), would address the transportation needs of DeKalb County through non-public transit funding by prohibiting the MARTA penny sales tax from increasing. The Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax, or E-HOST, also specifically benefits the transportation needs of public safety personnel while exempting food and prescription drugs. SB 156 passed by a vote of 36 to 18. – **SB 156**

Sick Leave

Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) sponsored Senate Bill 201 which would allow employers who employ 25 or more people who work more than 30 hours a week to use up to five days of sick leave to care for an immediate family member or dependent. Under this bill, employees who use sick leave must adhere to the terms of their employer's sick leave policy. SB 201 passed by a vote of 41 to 10. – **SB 201**



Delta Day at the Capitol

Senate Resolution 138, sponsored by Sen. Gloria Butler (D – Stone Mountain), recognizes February 27, 2017, as Delta Day at the Capitol. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded on January 13, 1913, by 22 women at Howard University. The organization's first act of service was their participation in the women's suffrage movement. Delta Sigma Theta has over 200,000 members and more than 1,000 chapters worldwide. – **SR 138**

Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership

Senate Resolution 246, sponsored by Sen. Fran Millar (R – Atlanta), commends Ashley Rodgers for being named the state recipient of the Technical College System of Georgia's 2016 Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL). The GOAL program celebrates the great impact technical education has had on Georgia's workforce. Ashley Rodgers is a marketing management student from South Georgia Technical College and will serve as an ambassador for technical education in Georgia. – **SR 246**

2016 Rick Perkins Award for Excellence

Senate Resolution 247, sponsored by Sen. Fran Millar (R – Atlanta), recognizes Dr. Angela Hines Brown as the state recipient of the Technical College System of Georgia's 2016 Rick Perkins Award for Excellence in Technical Instruction. She has also been recognized as the Technical College of Georgia's Instructor of the Year. Dr. Brown is an early childhood care and education instructor at West Georgia Technical College. – **SR 247**

Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education Award

Sen. Fran Millar (R – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 267 recognizing Desmond Vaird as the state recipient of the Technical College System of Georgia's 2016 Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education (EAGLE) Award. The EAGLE Award commends adult learners for their outstanding achievements in adult literacy classes. Mr. Vaird attends Lanier Technical College and will serve as an ambassador for adult education in Georgia. – **SR 267**

Georgia Conservation Day at the Capitol

Sen. Frank Ginn (R – Danielsville) sponsored Senate Resolution 289 commending the Georgia Conservancy on its 50th anniversary and recognizing February 27, 2017, as Georgia Conservancy Day at the Capitol. The Georgia Conservancy focuses on preserving Georgia's natural resources and protecting state parks and wildlife across the state. The Georgia Conservancy was founded on February 25, 1967, at Sweetwater Creek. – **SR 289**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Lottery for Education Proceeds

Senate Bill 5, sponsored by Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens), would require the Georgia Lottery to give a certain portion of their proceeds to fund the Lottery for Education Account. SB 5 would require the Georgia Lottery to increase the funding amount by one percent each year for three years starting at 26.5 percent in Fiscal Year 2018. Senate Bill 5 passed with a vote of 53 to 0. – **SB 5**

Pharmacy Benefits Managers

Senate Bill 103, sponsored by Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga), would increase the oversight capabilities of the Insurance Commissioner over Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM). Current law restricts the Commissioner from expanding provisions and rules pertaining to PBMs. SB 103 passed with a vote of 51 to 0. – **SB 103**

Waiving the Right to Counsel

Senate Bill 130, sponsored by Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia) would require that if a person waives their right to counsel before a hearing, it must be done voluntarily, knowingly and on the record. SB 130 also allows a child to waive their rights to counsel at an arraignment if the waiver is done voluntarily, knowingly and on the record. SB 130 passed with a vote of 52 to 0. – **SB 130**

Nurse Licensure Compact

Senate Bill 166, sponsored by Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford), would authorize Georgia to become a party state to the Nurse Licensure Compact. This legislation would allow registered professional nurses or licensed practical nurses to obtain a multi-state license which permits nurses to practice in any state that is a part of the Compact. SB 166 passed with a vote of 52 to 0. – **SB 166**

Access to Child Abuse Information

Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) sponsored Senate Bill 168 which would expand the list of individuals and agencies that can gain access to child abuse records. This bill would authorize certain government, adoption and law enforcement agencies to obtain child abuse records and gives access to any federal, state or local governmental entity that is investigating a possible child abuse case or potential foster and adoptive households to acquire background information. Senate Bill 168 passed with a vote of 53 to 0. – **SB 168**

State Road and Tollway Authority

Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta) sponsored Senate Bill 183 which would provide the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) with additional powers to extend credit, accept interest on any property and incorporate nonprofit corporations as subsidiary corporations. SB 183 would also allow SRTA to extend the expiration date for collection of tolls and requires SRTA to report all toll collections to the General Assembly. SB 183 passed with a vote of 50 to 1. – **SB 183**

Personal Needs Allowance

Sen. Michael Rhett (D – Marietta) sponsored Senate Bill 202 which would increase the personal needs allowance for medical assistance to \$70 per month for individuals who are institutionalized. SB 202 passed with a vote of 51 to 0. – **SB 202**

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution

Senate Resolution 104, sponsored by Sen. Bill Heath (R – Bremen), would repeal the collection of state ad valorem taxes on property with an amendment to the Georgia Constitution. SR 104 would also address millage rates which are applied to intangible property. SR 104 failed by a vote of 34 to 16. A motion to reconsider was filed by the sponsor and SR 104 was reconsidered and sent to the Senate Rules Committee on March 1. – **SR 104**

Association for X and Y Chromosomes Variations

Senate Resolution 101, sponsored by Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford), recognizes February 28, 2017, as X and Y Chromosome Variations Awareness Day at the Capitol. One in 500 children in the United States have an X and Y chromosome imbalance that causes learning disabilities, deficiencies and abnormalities. X and Y chromosome variations are largely unrecognizable but treatable with significant intervention which is why access to care is so important. – **SR 101**



Gordon Lee Memorial High School Softball Team

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga) sponsored Senate Resolution 164 recognizing the Gordon Lee Memorial High School Lady Trojans softball team for winning the 2016 GHSA 1-A State Softball Championship. Under the leadership of Head Coach Dana Mull, the team also won their 14th consecutive region championship. – **SR 164**

Prosecution – Based Victim Advocacy Day

Senate Resolution 197, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro), recognizes February 28, 2017, as Prosecution-Based Victim Advocacy Day in Georgia. SR 197 commends prosecution-based victim advocates and their mission to support victims of all crimes by providing the needed resources to guide these individuals through the judicial process. – **SR 197**

Sex Trafficking Awareness Day

Senate Resolution 312, sponsored by Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) and Sen. Gloria Butler (D – Stone Mountain), recognizes February 28, 2017, as Sex Trafficking Awareness Day at the Capitol. Sex trafficking is a crime that has been reported over 1,800 times in 104 Georgia counties since 2009 and affects people of all genders, socio-economic classes, ages, races and sexes. – **SR 312**



Youth Villages Georgia Day

Senate Resolution 319, sponsored by Sen. Mike Dugan (R – Carrollton), recognizes February 28, 2017, as Youth Villages Georgia Day at the Capitol. Youth Villages Georgia is an organization that helps children and youth become productive members of society by providing a place of permanency and support as they age out of foster care. – **SR 319**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

The Protect Act – Protecting Georgians Against Terrorism

Senate Bill 1, sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Bill Cowser (R – Athens), would redefine domestic terrorism to include damaging, disrupting or destroying critical infrastructure. SB 1 would also create a separate Department of Homeland Security as well as a State Board of Homeland Security to create a homeland security strategy and oversee its implementation by state and local agencies. The bill would also grant the Georgia Attorney General authority over multi-jurisdictional acts of terror. SB 1 passed with a vote of 42 to 12. – **SB 1**

Jeffrey Dallas Gay, Jr. Act

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored Senate Bill 81 which would allow pharmacists to dispense Naloxone to individuals in accordance with a statewide standing order. The bill also would require prescribers and dispensers of controlled substances to use the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program every 24 hours. SB 81 passed with a vote of 52 to 0. – **SB 81**

Changing Information Provided to Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia

Senate Bill 95, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro), would change what information the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia can and cannot acquire from the Department of Driver Services, Secretary of State, Department of Public Health and state criminal agencies when compiling the statewide master jury list. Under the bill, the Georgia Supreme Court would oversee the preparation, dissemination and improvements of the jury list. SB 95 passed with a vote of 51 to 0. – **SB 95**

Human Trafficking Hotline Model Notices in Government Buildings

Sen. Donzella James (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Bill 104 which would require government entities to post the human trafficking hotline model notice inside designated government buildings. It would also require government entities to provide a link on their websites to the notice on the Georgia Bureau of Investigation website. SB 104 passed by a vote of 52 to 0. – **SB 104**

Providing Additional Pathways for the Department of Education

Senate Bill 139, sponsored by Sen. Hunter Hill (R – Atlanta), would allow local school systems, charter schools and colleges to create additional career pathways for the State Board of Education to consider. The Department of Education must then review the submission within 90 days. SB 139 passed with a vote of 52 to 1. – **SB 139**

Allowing Cemeteries to Redistribute Income from Perpetual Care Trusts

Sen. Michael Williams (R – Cumming) sponsored Senate Bill 147 which would allow cemeteries and cemetery companies to distribute income from perpetual care trust funds through unitrust distribution methods. This would allow for them to use up to four percent of the net fair market value of the perpetual care trust fund for grounds maintenance. SB 147 passed with a vote of 48 to 1. – **SB 147**



Alternative Education Programs for Disruptive Students

Senate Bill 152, sponsored by Sen. Emanuel Jones (D – Decatur), would require schools to reassign students who would otherwise be suspended or expelled, to an alternative education program. This bill limits the length of time the assignment would last as long as the student exhibits appropriate behavior throughout the assignment’s duration. The assignment may be prolonged if the student commits a serious offense, but maybe appealed to return to a regular classroom after two semesters. SB 152 passed with a vote of 52 to 0. – **SB 152**

Criminal Trespassing Offense

Senate Bill 159, sponsored by Sen. Lee Anderson (R – Grovetown), would add vertical purple paint lines to the list of legal markers for private property. Under this bill, anyone entering a property marked with purple paint without the permission of the property owner is committing criminal trespass. SB 159 passed with a vote of 48 to 0. – **SB 159**

Accountability Courts

Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon) sponsored Senate Bill 174 which would require the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia to develop a peer review process to ensure that Veterans Division Courts are abiding by the same policies and procedures as other accountability courts. This bill also addresses probation and reviewing someone with no prior felony convictions to receive a probation sentence unless the courts determine incarceration is necessary. SB 174 passed with a vote of 55 to 0. – **SB 174**

Incompetence of Delinquent Children

Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon) sponsored Senate Bill 175 which would encourage parental responsibility of juveniles found to be delinquent. SB 175 would also provide professional guidance for the detention of a child who is depicted as incompetent to move forward in juvenile court proceedings. Juveniles who are determined to be incompetent may be released or detained depending on their mental state. SB 175 passed with a vote of 53 to 0. – **SB 175**

Drivers License Privileges

Senate Bill 176, sponsored by Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon), would provide that if an individual is arrested for violating motor vehicle or traffic laws a second attempt must be made to reach them before a bench warrant is issued if they miss their court date. SB 176 would also reinstate licenses to certain violations that occurred before July 1, 2015. SB 176 passed with a vote of 52 to 0. – **SB 176**

Dually Enrolled Students HOPE Grant Eligibility

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R – Marietta) sponsored Senate Bill 186 which would allow students who obtained a high school diploma while dual enrolled to be eligible for a HOPE grant in pursuit of an associate degree at a branch of the Technical College System of Georgia or a unit of the University System of Georgia. The student must still meet all residency, achievement and enrollment standards. SB 186 passed with a vote of 52 to 0. – **SB 186**



FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Congressman Doug Collins Welcomed to the Senate on Crossover Day

Congressman Doug Collins (GA – 09) was welcomed to the Senate Chamber as a special guest on Friday, March 3, 2017. Congressman Collins commended the Senate, and thanked them for all of their hard work for the State of Georgia.

Avoiding Drinking Water Contamination in Primary and Secondary Schools

Sen. Vincent Fort (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Bill 29 which would require that drinking water outlets used in schools and child care centers be tested for lead contamination by June 30, 2019. Under this bill, any lead contamination identified should be addressed and requires the school to submit a plan of corrective action to the Department of Public Health. SB 29 passed with a vote of 50 to 1. – **SB 29**

Unlocking the Promise Community Schools Act

Senate Bill 30, sponsored by Sen. Vincent Fort (D – Atlanta), would require the Department of Education (DOE) to make grants available for eligible schools that demonstrate a need for community school programming. If awarded a grant, a school must then provide the DOE with a community school plan and establish a school leadership team responsible for overseeing its implementation. Senate Bill 30 passed with a vote of 50 to 1. – **SB 30**

Removal of Mental Health Records from Georgia Crime Information Center

Senate Bill 99, sponsored by Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta), establishes a process for individuals who have been involuntarily hospitalized to have their mental health information automatically removed from the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) and provides protocol for a hearing before a judge to determine whether or not the record should be removed. If the judge chooses not to hold a hearing, the record will be purged from the system. If an individual does not petition for a hearing, their record will remain in the GCIC database indefinitely. SB 99 also changes the definition of a knife to a cutting instrument with a blade longer than 12 inches. SB 99 passed with a vote of 52 to 1. – **SB 99**

Refining Venue for Tort Actions Against the State

Senate Bill 126, sponsored by Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon), would bring torts in which the state is the defendant, under the jurisdiction of the state or superior court where the tort first occurred. However, wrongful death actions may be taken in the county where the loss occurred or where the victim died. SB 126 passed with a vote of 49 to 0. – **SB 126**

Asserting Victim's Rights

Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon) sponsored Senate Bill 127 which would allow a victim of a crime to be heard in a criminal case to assert their rights guaranteed in the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights. Specifically, SB 127 grants a victim the right to file a motion to be heard if they have not received reasonable notice of proceedings, if they had not been given the opportunity to testify or if the rights of other victims had been violated. SB 127 passed with a vote of 51 to 1. – **SB 127**

Civil Case Filings and Disposition Forms

Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia) sponsored Senate Bill 132 which would remove the current requirements for filing civil case and disposition forms and would allow the Judicial Council of Georgia to create similar forms for the purpose of gathering data. Under this legislation, these forms would be transmitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts through state and superior clerks and removes the authority of the Georgia Courts Automation Commission to do so. SB 132 passed with a vote of 48 to 1. – **SB 132**

“Save, Earn, Win Act”

Senate President Pro Tempore David Shafer (R – Duluth) sponsored Senate Bill 134, the “Save, Earn, Win Act,” which would authorize banks and credit unions to offer a new type of savings account in which depositors are entered into a drawing that pays a prize to the winner. The prize-linked savings accounts authorized by the “Save, Earn, Win Act” could be interest bearing or non-interest bearing. It would be up to the financial institutions in question to organize their raffle as they deem fit. SB 134 passed with a vote of 48 to 2. – **SB 134**

Training for School Resource Officers

Senate Bill 149, sponsored by Sen. Emanuel Jones (D – Decatur), would require the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council to develop a course designed to train School Resource Officers appointed to elementary and secondary schools. This bill would also require probation officers to successfully complete the training course and receive certification in order to authorize their power to arrest. The course would consist of at least 40 hours of training in the subjects of drug and gang awareness, adolescent interaction, criminal offenses and emergency preparedness. SB 149 passed with a vote of 50 to 1. – **SB 149**

Over the Counter Hearing Aids

Senate Bill 153, sponsored by Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan), would allow for the exemption of state licensing requirements in order to dispense and sell over-the-counter hearing aids to individuals 18 and older, who provide proof of an audiogram taken in the last six months. These hearing aids must use the same technology as an air-conduction hearing aid, allow for the end user to control volume and whose manufacturer must be registered with the Food and Drug Administration. SB 153 passed with a vote of 52 to 1. – **SB 153**

Uniformity in Copays and Coinsurance

Senate Bill 164, sponsored by Sen. Fran Millar (R – Atlanta), would require providers to charge the same co-payment, coinsurance or office visit charge for patients when they visit a primary physician, osteopath, physical therapist, occupational therapist or chiropractor. SB 164 passed with a vote of 51 to 1. – **SB 164**

Georgia SERVES Act of 2017

Sen. Hunter Hill (R – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Bill 170 which would require the Department of Human Services to develop a uniform statewide foster care volunteer certification system. Under the bill, two levels of volunteers would be established: Level I volunteers would be able to provide household support, babysitting and mentoring for the foster child; and Level II volunteers would be able to do so in the volunteer’s home for up to 72 hours. SB 170 passed with a vote of 40 to 13. – **SB 170**

Captive Insurers

Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson) sponsored Senate Bill 173 which would clean up language relating to captive insurers. A captive insurance company is a company that provides risk-mitigation services for a parent company or any group related to the company. SB 173 passed with a vote of 51 to 0. – **SB 173**



Grant Authority for Rural Hospitals

Sen. Dean Burke (R – Bainbridge) sponsored Senate Bill 180 which would modernize the grant authority used by the Department of Community Health to issue grants to rural hospitals. SB 180 passed with a vote of 51 to 0. – **SB 180**

Eminent Domain and Permitting for Oil Pipelines

Senate Bill 191, sponsored by Sen. Rick Jeffares (R – McDonough), would create a two-step application process for companies wishing to construct an oil pipeline in the state of Georgia. Companies must first obtain a permit from the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources, and then get a certificate of need from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority. SB 191 also provides for the use of eminent domain for the building and expansion of oil pipelines in Georgia. However, no permit shall be issued for any new petroleum pipeline within the Georgia coastal zone management program. SB 191 passed with a vote of 40 to 13. – **SB 191**

Pregnancy and Parenting Grant Programs

Senate Bill 193, sponsored by Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford), would make revisions to the Positive Alternatives for Pregnancy and Parenting Grant Programs by removing any references to the Indigent Care Trust Fund which are under the current law governing the program. Revisions to SB 193 clarify that services provided to a person through the program are not based on income. SB 193 passed with a vote of 36 to 16. – **SB 193**

Synchronizing Patients Chronic Medication

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome) sponsored Senate Bill 200 which would allow pharmacies to dispense more than one prescription at once to an individual by aligning their medications. Under this bill, pharmacies would only charge one fee based on the total number of prescriptions given. SB 200 passed with a vote of 53 to 0. – **SB 200**

Hearing Aid Insurance Coverage for Children

Sen. P. K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville) sponsored Senate Bill 206 which would require insurance companies to provide hearing aids and replacements to children 18 years old or younger. Coverage must be provided for a continuous 48-month period or for the duration of the hearing aid warranty, whichever is longer. Under this legislation, costs would be capped at \$3,000 per hearing aid, per ear. Health plans purchased through the health insurance exchange or offered through employers with less than 10 employees are exempt. SB 206 passed with a vote of 47 to 6. – **SB 206**

Administering Student Assessments

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R – Marietta) sponsored Senate Bill 211, which would introduce new requirements for research-based student assessments for students in the first and second grade. Specifically, SB 211 would require input from local school systems in how a research assessment is prepared and would require access to real-time data to help measure a student's progress throughout the year. SB 211 would also call for a study to determine if Georgia's standards for certain national assessments are in line with national standards. SB 211 passed with a vote of 51 to 0. – **SB 211**

Dispersing SPLOST funds to Municipalities

Senate Bill 216, sponsored by Sen. Steve Henson (D – Stone Mountain), would require that any county imposing an Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax (E-HOST) distribute their Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) money to municipalities even if they rely on the county to maintain their roads, sidewalks and bike paths. SB 216 passed by a vote of 49 to 1. – **SB 216**

Autonomous Vehicles

Senate Bill 219, sponsored by Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonge), provides for the operation of automated driving systems (ADS) for use in autonomous vehicles. Under SB 219, vehicles with ADS engaged do not require a human operator and therefore would not require passengers to have valid driver's licenses. These vehicles must be registered as automated vehicles with the Department of Motor Vehicles and must maintain a valid insurance policy in order to operate on highways in Georgia. SB 219 passes with a vote of 51 to 0. – **SB 219**

Optometrists Administering Medication by Injection

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored Senate Bill 221 which would authorize optometrists to administer medication by injection to treat various conditions of the eye and adnexa oculi. Under this bill, optometrists must hold a license or certificate showing their completion in injectable training or must be enrolled in an approved injectable training program to perform such actions. SB 221 passed with a vote of 34 to 17. – **SB 221**

Local Government 9-1-1 Authority Act

Senate Bill 222, sponsored by Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon), would create the Local Government 9-1-1 Authority which would act as a public corporation composed of all counties and municipalities that offer 9-1-1 services. The Authority would administer, collect, audit and remit 9-1-1 revenue for local governments on terms set by each local government. The Authority would also be responsible for the maintenance and improvement of 9-1-1 services across Georgia. The cost recovery fee for service suppliers would not exceed 45 cents. SB 222 passed by a vote of 50 to 3. – **SB 222**

Farm Wineries

Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) sponsored Senate Bill 226 which would increase the amount of grapes farm wineries are allowed to acquire from outside of Georgia for production in the state from 20 percent to 40 percent of the winery's annual production. SB 226 passed by vote of 50 to 2. – **SB 226**

Controlled Substances

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored Senate Bill 241 which would allow the Department of Public Health to maintain and administer the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Under this bill, the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency will continue its responsibility to investigate and report potential violations from the PDMP. SB 241 also provides rules for disposing controlled substances prescribed to a patient in hospice care after their death. SB 241 passed with a vote of 45 to 0. – **SB 241**

Limiting Nurse Protocol Agreements

Senate Bill 242, sponsored by Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford), would increase the number of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) that can be supervised under one physician. Under SB 242, physicians could have a roster in emergency settings of up to 10 APRNs. SB 242 passed by a vote of 52 to 0. – **SB 242**

State Sexual Offender Registry

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga) sponsored Senate Bill 250 which would require that an individual who is a convicted sexual offender in another country, register on the State Sexual Offender Registry. Under SB 250, the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board transfers its power of sentencing to the Superior Court Judge for convictions. SB 250 passed with a vote of 50 to 0. – **SB 250**

Eligibility and Qualifications for Office

Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia) sponsored Senate Bill 258 which would prohibit citizens from holding civil office if they are holders of public monies due to municipalities. SB 258 passed with a vote of 50 to 0. – **SB 258**

Marsy's Law

Senate Resolution 146, sponsored by Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon), proposes a constitutional amendment which, if adopted by voters, would entitle victims of crimes to certain rights. These rights would include reasonable notice of and the right to attend any proceedings involving your offender, as well as the right to be treated with dignity and respect. SR 146 would also require the General Assembly to create a mechanism for ensuring these rights. SR 146 passed with a vote of 50 to 4. – **SR 146**

Constitutional Amendment on Local School Elections

Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa) sponsored Senate Resolution 192 which proposes a constitutional amendment that, if adopted by a local referendum, would authorize the election of local school superintendents by local voters and local school board members by grand juries. SR 192 passed by a vote of 40 to 12. – **SR 192**

Dedication of Bridges and Highways

Senate Resolution 204, sponsored by Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville), would dedicate highways and bridges in memory of or in honor of notable Georgians. Under SR 204, property currently owned by the Georgia Department of Transportation in Ben Hill County will be transferred to the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services. SR 204 passed with a vote of 51 to 0. – **SR 204**

State Owned Properties Conveyance and Leasing

Senate Resolution 228, sponsored by Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson), would authorize the conveyance and ground leasing of certain state owned properties in 16 Georgia counties and in one county in Tennessee. SR 228 passed with a vote of 49 to 1. – **SR 228**

State Owned Properties Easements

Senate Resolution 229, sponsored by Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson), would grant counties nonexclusive authority for the construction, maintenance and operation of certain state owned properties in 10 Georgia counties. SR 229 passed with a vote of 52 to 0. – **SR 229**



The Georgia Senate will reconvene for **DAY 29 at 10:00 a.m. on
MONDAY, MARCH 6.**