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This Week in the Senate

March 19 - 23, 2018



The Last Days of Session

Just two legislative days remain before the Senate adjourns *Sine Die*. When we eventually gavel-out, we will have deliberated, in chamber, on over 200 pieces of legislation, and that, as they say, ain't nothin'.

But I would be remiss not to note this: the legislative process isn't all we have witnessed this year. With a solemn heart, I will always remember being in the Senate Chamber when news broke of the passing of Governor Zell Miller.

Governor Miller, even so many years removed from his last election, was a presence that was, and continues to be, warmly felt in the hallowed halls of our Capitol. Carlyle was right when he wrote that no great man lives in vain. History, you see, is their biography. And Georgia's history, in turn, is in so many ways the biography of Governor Miller – from Northeast Georgia to Washington, D.C.; from Marine to elder statesman, he represented the best of Georgia while simultaneously raising that bar along the way. If a man's kingdom is not what he has but what he does, and what he therefore leaves behind, then Governor Miller is one of our greatest princes. I am proud to have called him a friend. He will be sorely missed.

I feel safe in saying that Governor Miller would be proud of our hard work this week. We tackled the Fiscal Year 2019 General Budget, also known as House Bill 684. Contained within the budget – the complex workings of which were, as always, mastered by my colleague, Chairman Jack Hill (R – Reidsville), – is an allocation of \$3 million in grants for law enforcement officers. The bill also appropriates approximately \$10 million to be spent on school safety throughout the state. There are, of course, differences between the Senate and House versions of the bill. As a result, HB 684 will now go to conference for negotiations between the two chambers.

As we barrel toward a budget, and as we reach the final moments of the session, I would like to wish the Senators and House members who have other bills in each chamber the best of luck. I would also like to commend and thank everyone who has worked hard behind the scenes to make this session a success. Without the help of staff, no legislator could alone navigate the legislative process. Thank you all, and may these last days be kind to you. In fact:

If I can be of help to any of you in these waning days of session, please feel free to come by my office. I would love the opportunity to work with you, to assist you in any way. Perhaps we could even huddle around my desk – the same desk that once belonged to Zell Miller, with its finish still blemished from the scuffs once made by his dress boots. Together, there's nothing we can't accomplish.

R.I.P., Governor Zell Bryan Miller (1932-2018).

Senator Butch Miller
President Pro Tempore, Georgia Senate

MONDAY, MARCH 19

The Abandoned Mobile Home Act

Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon) carried House Bill 381 which would allow local governments to appoint an agent who would determine the condition of mobile homes left abandoned on individual landowner's properties. HB 381 would also create the judicial process for foreclosing on a mobile home. HB 381 passed with a vote of 53-0. – **HB 381**

Expanding Sex Trafficking Offenses

House Bill 732, carried by Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford), would expand the offense of sex trafficking to include knowingly patronizing a person in sexual servitude. Under HB 732, an individual convicted of patronizing a person 16 years or older would serve between five and 20 years in prison and an individual convicted of patronizing a person 16 years old or younger would serve between 10 and 20 years in prison. HB 732 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **HB 732**

Solid Waste Disposal Surcharges

Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry) carried House Bill 792 which would extend the sunset date on imposing solid waste charges to July 1, 2019. HB 792 would allow local governments with solid waste disposals operated by a private company to authorize a \$3.00 surcharge per ton of solid waste that is disposed and would allow local governments to apply a surcharge of \$1.00 per ton for construction or demolition waste disposals. HB 792 passed with a vote of 42-11. – **HB 792**

Aquarium and Museum Tax Exemptions

House Bill 793, carried by Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White), would extend the sales and use tax exemption for certain aquariums and will sunset on January 1, 2022. Under HB 793, a sales and use tax exemption for certain museums would be created with a sunset of December 31, 2020. HB 793 passed with a vote of 45-9. – **HB 793**

Homestead Exemption Within the City of Atlanta

Sen. Fran Millar (R – Atlanta) carried House Bill 820 which would provide a referendum to citizens of the city of Atlanta to vote upon a new homestead exemption for certain ad valorem taxes. HB 820 passed with a vote of 55-0. – **HB 820**

Continuing School Enrollment After Moving

House Bill 852, carried by Sen. Fran Millar (R – Atlanta), would allow a student who has been enrolled in and attended a public school for more than half of an academic year and moves to another attendance zone within the same school system to continue enrollment at his or her initial public school for the remainder of the school year. HB 852 passed with a vote of 54-1. – **HB 852**



Amending Public Safety Board Membership

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) carried House Bill 856 which would add the Commissioner of Community Supervision to the membership of the Board of Public Safety. HB 856 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **HB 856**

Minimum Standard Codes

House Bill 876, carried by Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa), would prohibit local governments from restricting the use of wood as a construction material as long as the minimum state and federal building codes and Georgia State Fire Code have been met. HB 876 passed with a vote of 40-14. – **HB 876**

The Uniform Power of Attorney Act

Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon) carried House Bill 897 which would clarify the Uniform Power of Attorney Act by changing the application and termination process of a power of attorney. HB 897 passed with a vote of 53-0. – **HB 897**

Single Parent Day in Georgia

House Resolution 279, carried by Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta), would designate March 21 of every year as Single Parent Day in Georgia. HR 279 passed with a vote of 50-0. – **HR 279**

Herman Cain Visits the Senate

WSB Radio Host Herman Cain visited the Senate and thanked Lt. Governor Casey Cagle and members of the Senate for their work to implement state legislation that complements the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.



Recognizing Atlanta United

Senate Resolution 667, sponsored by Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville), wishes the Atlanta United FC success on their upcoming season. The team was chosen as a Major League Soccer expansion franchise in April 2014 and has set numerous records including the highest average attendance for a regular season. – **SR 667**

Commending the 94th Airlift Wing

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) sponsored Senate Resolution 903 recognizing the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins Air Reserve Base. The 94th Airlift Wing contributes to global mobility through cargo lifting, tactical airdropping capabilities and critical patient care through aeromedical evacuation. – **SR 903**

Commending TydenBrooks Security Products Group

Senate Resolution 909, sponsored by Sen. Josh McKoon (R – Columbus), commends TydenBrooks Security Products Group for celebrating their 145th anniversary. TydenBrooks Security was founded in 1873 as a small, family-run business and has become the largest and oldest manufacturer of security seals in the country. – **SR 909**

Spelman College Day at the State Capitol

Sen. Gail Davenport (D – Jonesboro) sponsored Senate Resolution 964 recognizing March 19, 2018, as Spelman College Day at the state Capitol. Spelman College was founded in 1881 and is one of the oldest historically black women's colleges. Spelman College is named among the top 100 liberal arts college in the nation. – **SR 964**

Recognizing 2018 Gerber Spokesbaby Lucas Andrew Warren

Senate Resolution 999, sponsored by Sen. Chuck Payne (R – Dalton), recognizes Lucas Andrew Warren for becoming the first Gerber spokesbaby with special needs. Lucas, who has Down syndrome, was selected from more than 140,000 entries in the eighth annual Gerber Baby Photo Search contest. – **SR 999**

Honoring the Green Beret Special Forces Soldiers

Sen. Ed Harbison (D – Columbus) sponsored Senate Resolution 1024 honoring the 12 man Green Beret team who was sent to Afghanistan immediately following the 9/11 attacks. The soldiers fought alongside Afghan Northern Alliance against the Taliban regime on horseback. Their story is chronicled in the new movie 12 Strong. – **SR 1024**



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Trauma Scene Waste Practitioners

Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell) carried House Bill 149 which would require trauma scene waste management practitioners to register with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, not be on felony probation and carry \$100,000 in insurance policies. HB 149 would also consolidate and transfer all fire-related safety services from the Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner to a newly created Division of Fire Safety, which would be led by the Commissioner of Fire Safety. HB 149 passed with a vote of 41-11. – **HB 149**

Updating Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund Membership

House Bill 398, carried by Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta), would update the membership eligibility list for the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund to include investigators employed by the Georgia Board of Dentistry. HB 398 passed with a vote of 47-0. – **HB 398**

Outlining Firework Uses

Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell) carried House Bill 419 which would allow local governments to regulate firework usage through their local noise ordinance with the exception of certain dates. HB 419 would require licensed firework retailers to post signage with safety tips and state laws regarding firework usage within local ordinances. In addition, the bill would grant the governor authority to suspend local firework use whenever the Keetch-Byram Drought Index reaches a level of 700 or above at any point in the county. HB 419 passed with a vote of 47-4. – **HB 419**

Preliminary Hearings for Early Learning Facility Closures

House Bill 494, carried by Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa), would allow for hearsay in preliminary hearings when the Commissioner of Early Learning and Caring issues an emergency closure order of an early care and educational program when the safety or welfare of a child is in imminent danger. HB 494 would also invalidate background checks of early care providers who have been separated from a program for more than 180 days. HB 494 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **HB 494**



Honey Bee Conservation Specialty License Plates

Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa) carried House Bill 671 which would create a specialty license plate to benefit the Georgia Beekeepers Association and its conservation efforts. In addition, HB 671 would allow a vehicle manufactured in 1989 or earlier to use historical license plates. HB 671 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **HB 671**

Student Loans for Georgia National Guardsmen

House Bill 700, carried by Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah), would add graduate level classes to those covered by service cancelable educational loans for Georgia National Guardsmen. Under HB 700, guardsmen would be required to serve for two years upon completion of coursework. HB 700 passed with a vote of 50-0. – **HB 700**

State Employee Drug Testing

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga) carried and Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah) presented House Bill 701 which would expand the list of drugs tested during state employee drug tests to include all forms of opioids, including analgesics and derivatives. HB 701 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **HB 701**

School Absences for Children of Military Parents

House Bill 718, carried by Sen. Tonya Anderson (D – Lithonia), would grant a maximum of five excused school day absences per year for children whose parents or legal guardians serve in the United States Military or National Guard. Under HB 718, school absences would only be excused if children are attending military affairs sponsored events. HB 718 passed with a vote of 53-0. – **HB 718**

Naming the Tracy Rainey Act

Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah) carried House Bill 739 which would name the code section allowing military spouses who move to Georgia to qualify for temporary work certificates the Tracy Rainey Act. HB 739 passed with a vote of 50-0. – **HB 739**

Early Intervention for Students

House Bill 740, carried by Sen. Mike Dugan (R – Carrollton), would direct local school systems to implement and utilize a multi-tiered system of support for students between preschool and third grade. Under HB 730, no student would be suspended for more than five days or expelled without his or her case first being reviewed using the multi-tiered system. HB 740 passed with a vote of 47-5. – **HB 740**

Enacting CJ's Law

Sen. Donzella James (D – Atlanta) carried House Bill 765 which would add a hit and run accident that results in the serious bodily harm of an individual to the list of motor vehicle crimes punishable as a felony. If an individual knowingly leaves the scene of such an accident, he or she would be convicted of a felony and subject to imprisonment between one and five years. HB 765 passed with a vote of 46-7. – **HB 765**

Creating the Emergency Operations Command and Board of Homeland Security

House Bill 779, carried by Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens), would create the Emergency Operations Command and the Board of Homeland Security to manage Georgia’s public safety emergencies. The new agencies would be responsible for coordinating the public, and operational authority would remain under participating agencies. In addition, HB 779 would transfer the responsibility of processing federal security clearances from the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center to the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency. HB 779 passed with a vote of 50-0. – **HB 779**



Annual Banking Updates

Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon) carried House Bill 780 which would provide annual updates to Georgia code relating to the state’s financial institutions, including banks and credit unions. HB 780 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **HB 780**

Business Tax Credits in Less Developed Areas

House Bill 843, carried by Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry), would expand ‘less developed’ areas eligible for certain tax credits to include census tracts in counties containing a federal military installation of at least 5,000 personnel and a government-operated industrial park. HB 843 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **HB 843**

Updating Insurance Policy Cancellation Procedure

Sen. Marty Harbin (R – Tyrone) carried House Bill 878 which would update the procedure for canceling an insurance policy. In addition to canceling a policy in writing or electronically, policyholders would now be able to cancel orally. Under HB 878, an orally cancelled policy must be confirmed electronically or in writing by both parties within 10 days of the cancellation request in order to take effect. HB 878 passed with a vote of 43-11. – **HB 878**

Agricultural Machinery Sales and Use Tax Exemptions

House Bill 886, carried by Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa), would increase the minimum amount of annual sales to \$5,000 in order for a farmer to be eligible to receive a sales and use tax exemption. In addition, HB 886 standardizes the certification process, renewal dates and a \$150 renewal fee to claim a sales and use tax exemption. HB 886 passed with a vote of 47-6. – **HB 886**

Updating Motor Vehicle Fleet Requirements

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) carried House Bill 898 which would revise the provisions for fleet vehicles, their registration plans and enrollment procedures. The bill would change the definition of a fleet from 1,000 to 100 motor vehicles, reduce the registration fee per fleet from \$200 to \$50 and allow for electronic submissions. HB 898 would also update state code to prohibit wearing a helmet or headphone that impairs a driver’s hearing, excluding communication devices, for all motor vehicles except motorcycles. In addition, the bill would prohibit operating a motor vehicle while wearing any device that impairs the driver’s vision. HB 898 passed with a vote of 51-1. – **HB 898**

Excluding Foster Parents From Public Disclosure Requests

House Bill 906, carried by Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon), would amend current law relating to the Department of Human Services’ public disclosure requirements to exclude personal information of foster parents or former foster parents from inspection. HB 906 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **HB 906**

DFCS Information Access

Sen. Fran Millar (R – Atlanta) carried House Bill 920 which would allow the Department of Family and Children Services to use any information concerning an adopted child in legal proceedings in the case of a death, suffering a near fatality or an alleged victim of abuse and neglect. HB 920 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **HB 920**

New Standards for Government Consulting

House Bill 995, carried by Sen. Lee Anderson (R – Grovetown), would implement new standards for consultants contracting with government entities. The legislation sets regulations for handling contract information, preparing bids, requesting proposals and procuring orders. HB 995 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **HB 995**



Congratulating Chipper Jones

Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta) sponsored Senate Resolution 656 congratulating Larry Wayne “Chipper” Jones, Jr. for his election into the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. Jones played for the Atlanta Braves for all 19 seasons of his professional career and was a member of the 1995 World Series Championship team. Jones was awarded the 1999 National League Most Valuable Player Award and is an eight-time National League All-Star. – **SR 656**

Commending Dana Lemon

Senate Resolution 751, sponsored by Sen. Emanuel Jones (D – Decatur), commends Dana Lemon for being the first woman appointed to serve on the Transportation Board of Georgia. Lemon is the president and co-owner of W.D. Lemon and Sons Funeral Home and is a member of the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association and the Georgia Funeral Service Practitioners Association. – **SR 751**

Commending Cadet Bryton Wenzel

Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega) sponsored Senate Resolution 818 commending Cadet Bryton Wenzel of the University of North Georgia for his academic successes and earning the title as the 5th ranked Army ROTC cadet in the nation. Wenzel will graduate as a Distinguished Military Graduate and will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Georgia National Guard upon graduation in May 2018. – **SR 818**

Recognizing Cadet Andrew Gomez

Senate Resolution 819, sponsored by Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega), recognizes Cadet Andrew Gomez of the University of North Georgia for being named to the 2017 National Order of Merit List of the United States Army Cadet Command and earning the title of the 2nd ranked Army ROTC cadet in the nation. Gomez will graduate as a Distinguished Military Graduate and will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Cyber Branch upon graduation in May 2018. – **SR 819**

Commending Dr. Jocelyn Curry

Senate Resolution 988, sponsored by Sen. Valencia Seay (D – Riverdale), commends Dr. Jocelyn Curry for being featured on the cover of *People Magazine's Atlanta Edition 2018: Atlanta Women of the Year*. A Decatur native, Dr. Curry now practices sports medicine and is a podiatric surgeon in Atlanta. – **SR 988**

Recognizing MacKenzie Marable

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga) sponsored and Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome) presented Senate Resolution 1045 recognizing MacKenzie Marable as Miss Magnolia 2018. Marable has volunteered numerous hours, serving organizations such as Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Girls, Inc. – **SR 1045**

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Encouraging the Federal Government to Ease Agribusiness Regulations

Senate Resolution 989, sponsored by Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa), encourages the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to withdraw Electronic Logging Device regulations and fully honor the “Hours of Service” provisions for the agriculture industry. SR 989 passed with a vote of 51-1. – **SR 989**

Joint Study Commission on THC Medical Oil Access

Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan) carried House Bill 65 which would create the Joint Study Commission on THC Medical Oil Access. HB 65 would task the commission with using professional medical research to recommend dosages for conditions and determine low THC oil interactions with other drugs, and would gather patient responses to treatment. The commission would present its recommendations on December 1 of each year. HB 65 passed with a vote of 31-17. – **HB 65**

Fair Market Value of Tree Farms

House Bill 85, carried by Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta), would clarify that qualified timber property and forest land conservation use property would be taxed at 40 percent of its fair market value. House Bill 85 passed with a vote of 52-1. – **HB 85**

Economic Analysis and Taxpayer Refunds

Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell) carried House Bill 93 which would repay taxpayers with interest for any state and local sales and use overpayments with a direct pay permit. In addition, the bill would require any tax bills passed by the General Assembly to undergo a thorough economic analysis by the state auditor within 30 days of the bill’s passage and would be audited on a rotating schedule. HB 93 passed with a vote of 49-0. – **HB 93**

Modernizing Georgia’s Trust Laws

House Bill 121, carried by Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro), would make several updates to Georgia law regarding trusts including who can act as a beneficiary, the protocol for the transfer of property and when a trustee can modify or terminate a trust. The bill also addresses the rule against perpetuities by increasing the years allowed for a trust to vest from 90 years to 360 years. HB 121 passed with a vote of 42-1. – **HB 121**

Hunting and Baiting Regulations

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) carried House Bill 271 which would allow hunting on wildlife management areas without a permit and removes the prohibition on baiting feral hogs. HB 271 would clarify the start date of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) criminal violation rules as January 1, 2018, and would prohibit baiting wildlife to entice them from adjoining land. The bill would allow airbows and airguns of at least .30 caliber for big game hunting and allow the DNR to extend the use of archery for deer hunting to January 31. HB 271 passed with a vote of 37-16. – **HB 271**



Surprise Billing

House Bill 314, carried by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome), would require hospitals and physicians to clearly post notices and standard charges on their respective websites. The bill would require insurers to provide enrollees with criteria for in-network and out-of-network coverage. The legislation would also allow for mediation of a bill greater than \$1,000 for an elective medical procedure. HB 314 passed with a vote of 47-1. – **HB 314**

Ad Valorem Taxes on Property

Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan) carried House Bill 374 which would lower the fair market value required to appeal non-homestead exemptions from \$750,000 to \$500,000. HB 374 would allow for an extension of at least 30 days to no more than 180 days for an appeal. HB 374 passed with a vote of 46-0. – **HB 374**

Statement of Account Fees

House Bill 410, carried by Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick), would require property owners' associations to provide a statement of account within 10 days of a request made by a designated party. The fee for the preparation of this statement by property owners' associations would be limited to \$100, however additional fees may be charged for other services or requested documents. HB 410 passed with a vote of 45-5. – **HB 410**



Advertising Bids through the Georgia Procurement Registry

House Bill 489, carried by Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan), would require certain bids or proposals for goods and services and public works construction contracts to use the Georgia Procurement Registry to advertise. Under this bill, the advertisement would be free of cost to local government entities. HB 489 passed with a vote of 46-1. – **HB 489**

Magistrate Retirement Fund Benefits

Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta) carried House Bill 571 which would suspend members of the Magistrate Retirement Fund who have failed to pay dues for 90 days. During suspension, members would not build service credit and would only be reinstated upon application to the Fund during a 30 day period after their next full term in office begins. HB 571 passed with a vote of 48-0. – **HB 571**

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget

House Bill 684, carried by Sen. Jack Hill (R – Reidsville), proposes the Fiscal Year 2019 General Budget. The proposed 2019 budget would include a state fund revenue estimate of \$26 billion allocated to a variety of areas including education, criminal justice, public health, cybersecurity and transportation. HB 684 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **HB 684**



Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Data Centers

Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonga) carried House Bill 696 which would create a sales and use tax exemption for high-technology data center equipment. In order to qualify as an eligible location, the center must provide 20 high-quality jobs and meet a 'minimum investment threshold' as determined by the commissioner of the Department of Revenue. HB 696 passed with a vote of 42-5. – **HB 696**

Regulations for Driver Education Schools

House Bill 721, carried by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), would set the minimum regulations for approved on-the-road instruction for online driving courses. HB 721 passed with a vote of 43-1. – **HB 721**

Railroad Track Income Tax Credits

Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega) carried House Bill 735 which would create an income tax credit for 50 percent of maintenance costs on Class III railroad tracks. Additionally, HB 735 exempts state-owned rail lines from any fees imposed for the management, collection or disposal of stormwater. Under HB 735, a tax credit would be created for carpet facilities that purchase \$20 million in qualified investment properties and would create 25 new full time jobs between the years of 2018 and 2020. HB 735 passed with a vote of 47-5. – **HB 735**

The Choice to Reduce Insurance Coverage

House Bill 760, carried by Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White) and presented by Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville), would allow insurance policyholders to renew a policy with a reduction in coverage. Under HB 760, an insurance reduction request would have to be placed in writing at least 30 days prior to the requested reduced coverage taking effect for auto, motorcycle or homeowner's insurance. HB 760 would require the same notice must be sent for other types of coverage and be requested 45 days prior to the effective date of the request. HB 760 passed with a vote of 32-14. – **HB 760**

Expanding Duties for Student Attendance Protocol Committees

Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan) carried House Bill 763 which would expand the tasks of Student Attendance Protocol Committees to include reviewing school climate, including disruptive environments, school safety plans and when these plans are exempt from public disclosure. The bill would also require public schools to conduct safety drills based on guidelines from the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency. HB 763 passed with a vote of 50-0. – **HB 763**

PDMP Program Updates and Addressing the Opioid Crisis

House Bill 782, carried by Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry), which would remove licensure requirements set by the Department of Public Health for the State Board of Pharmacy for up to two prescribers who access the prescription drug monitoring program database. Under HB 782, the Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery and an Executive Director of Substance Abuse, Addiction and Related Disorders would be created. Additionally, the bill would create a partnership with providers and communities across Georgia to prohibit patient brokering. House Bill 782 passed with a vote of 49-0. – **HB 782**

Court Reform Council Changes

Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough) carried and Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro) presented House Bill 790 which would change hearing requirements for cases in the Office of State Administrative Hearings by clarifying that administrative law judges have ultimate authority in contested cases which are not referred to the court by an executive agency. The bill would also clarify that the Board of Regents has the ability to determine contested cases. HB 790 passed with a vote of 48-1. – **HB 790**

Qualifying for Public Works Bidding

House Bill 899, carried by Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan) and presented by Sen. Mike Dugan (R – Carrollton), would prohibit disqualifying bidders from a contract for public works because of their lack of experience with delivery methods. HB 899 passed with a vote of 42-1. – **HB 899**

Liability on Private Property for Recreational Use

House Bill 904, carried by Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia), would clarify that people who lawfully enter private land being used for recreational purposes would all have the same liability coverage for injuries sustained on the property if the property owner charges a fee for admission, even if they only charge one person an admission fee. If the owner of the property does not charge fees for admission, he or she would not be held liable. House Bill 904 passed with a vote of 46-4. – **HB 904**

Nurse Protocol Agreement

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) carried House Bill 927 which would increase the number of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) from four to eight that can enter into a nurse protocol agreement with a physician and be supervised at one time. HB 927 would allow APRNs to order radiographic imaging tests. HB 927 passed with a vote of 34-12. – **HB 927**

Creating the Atlanta-Region Transit Authority

House Bill 930, carried by Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta), would create the Atlanta-region Transit Link (ATL) Commission which would be responsible for planning, funding and implementing projects within its jurisdiction. HB 930 would allow for an optional T-SPLOST for transit projects to be offered in counties serviced by the ATL Commission, if approved by a referendum. HB 930 passed with a vote of 47-3. – **HB 930**

Reclassifying Forest Land for Conservation Use

Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta) carried House Resolution 51 which would propose an amendment to the Constitution of Georgia to provide for new methods of assessment and taxation of forest land for conservation use. Under HR 51, the Georgia General Assembly would be authorized to deduct five percent from assistance grants to recover revenue losses related to taxation. HR 51 passed with a vote of 52-1. – **HR 51**

Thanking Assistant Secretary of the Senate Debbie Ewing

Senate Resolution 1113, sponsored by Senate President Pro Tempore Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville), commends Debbie Ewing for her service to the state of Georgia and wishes her a happy retirement. Ewing has served for over 25 years with the Secretary of the Senate's Office, the Legislative Fiscal Office and as Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Health. Most recently, she served as the Assistant Secretary of the Senate where she established the legislative management system and oversaw the Senate journal. – **SR 1113**

Honoring Senate Sergeant at Arms John W. Long

Senate President Pro Tempore Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) sponsored Senate Resolution 1114 which honors John W. Long for his service to the Georgia State Senate and congratulates him on his retirement. Long has served as the Senate Sergeant at Arms since 2011, where he manages Senate Doorkeepers and maintains order in the Senate Chamber. Prior to this position, he served as a Senate Doorkeeper from 2006 to 2011. – **SR 1114**

Remembering Governor Zell Miller

Senate Resolution 1131, sponsored by Senate President Pro Tempore Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville), honors and remembers former Governor of Georgia and U.S. Senator Zell Miller who died on Friday, March 23, 2018. In addition to serving the public in these capacities, Governor Miller served as Mayor of Young Harris, Georgia, state Senator and Lieutenant Governor. During his time as governor, Miller established the HOPE Scholarship, leaving behind a legacy of servant leadership. – **SR 1131**



Senate Agreements

The Senate agreed to the House Substitute on the following:

March 21, 2018

SB 328 by a vote of 45-9

Senate Disagreements

The Senate disagreed to the House Substitute or insisted on the Senate Substitute on the following:

March 23, 2018

SB 402

HB 684

HB 930

Conference Committees

The Senate insisted on its position on the following legislation and conference committee nominees were appointed:

March 23, 2018

SB 402 – Senators from the **18th, 51st, 56th**

HB 684 – Senators from the **4th, 46th, 49th**

HB 930 – Senators from the **21st, 26th, and 51st**



**The Georgia Senate will reconvene at 10:00a.m. on
TUESDAY, MARCH 27.**