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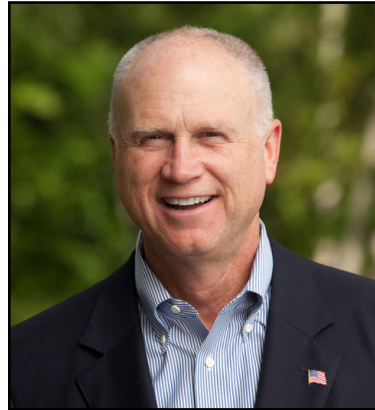
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GeorgiaStateSenate

2020 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

January 13 - June 26, 2020



Recapping a Productive Session

The 2020 Legislative Session will be remembered for a great many things. It will be remembered for the extensive pause the General Assembly took in response to the COVID-19 pandemic – resulting in the latest *Sine Die* in memory, the national civil unrest that followed recent tragedies throughout the country (including here in Georgia), and the various new procedures and safety protocols the Senate was required to implement once reconvening to prevent the spread of COVID-19. While these are all historic

events and deserve to be remembered as such, it is my sincere hope that this session will also be remembered for the significant and timely legislation that received final passage.

Many of these bills you may already know about, such as the hate crimes law (House Bill 426), the Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act (House Bill 888) and the budget for the 2021 Fiscal Year (House Bill 793). However, the Senate and House passed a total of 342 bills and resolutions (both general and local) this year, all of which are also worthy of attention. For example, we passed measures which would extend postpartum Medicaid coverage for mothers, assist victims of human trafficking, increase retirement benefits for our public safety community, impose additional regulations on ethylene oxide emissions, add greater opportunities for rural broadband expansion, and create enhanced protections for residents in care homes or assisted living communities. While these are just a few examples, they are indicative of the wide range of issues the General Assembly considers each year.

The end of this session also means the end of a biennium – the two-year terms in which members of the legislature serve. Any legislation introduced is good for that biennium only, meaning that if a piece of legislation did not pass this year, it must be reintroduced next year and start the process all over again. Members of the General Assembly will now take time throughout the interim to further study and refine policy proposals for when the legislature reconvenes in January.

From *Sine Die* on June 26, the Governor has 40 days to veto any legislation, but any legislation that received final passage and is not vetoed will still become law, with or without the Governor's signature. Below, you will find a brief overview of each piece of legislation that received final passage during the 2020 Legislative Session. I hope that you find this document informative and that it serves as a reflection of the tireless work of your State Senate and our support staff. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about these, or any other pieces of legislation, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office.

Senator Butch Miller
President Pro Tempore, Georgia Senate

Agriculture and Consumer Affairs

Marketing of Meat

Effective: December 31, 2020

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) sponsored Senate Bill 211 which would prohibit marketing food that is not at least 90 percent from a live animal as meat. Under this bill, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, fish and poultry would be defined as “animals.” – **SB 211**

Making Changes to the State Board of Veterinary Medicine

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 346, sponsored by Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta), would allow a registered veterinary technician member to join the State Board of Veterinary Medicine (SBVM) and would authorize the SBVM to create a professional program for impaired veterinarians. – **SB 346**

Declaring the Official State Grape

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) sponsored Senate Bill 358, which would designate the muscadine grape as the official grape of Georgia. – **SB 358**

Adjusting Costs for Impounding Animals

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Senate Bill 362, sponsored by Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa), would change the fees animal owners pay for the impounding, caring for, feeding and disposing of these animals from fixed costs to the actual costs of these processes. – **SB 362**

Revising the Georgia Food Act

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 381, sponsored by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta), would allow certain information the Georgia Department of Agriculture obtains from the United States Food and Drug Administration to remain confidential. – **SB 381**

Reviewing Georgia's International Building Code

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 777, carried by Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa), would require the Department of Community Affairs to review the 2021 edition of the International Building Code through a time period spanning from July 1, 2020, to July 1, 2021. The purpose of this review will be to understand if the Georgia state minimum standard code should be amended. – **HB 777**

Updating Georgia's Hemp Farming Laws

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) carried House Bill 847, which would make alterations to Georgia's licensing procedures for hemp farming and expand the eligibility requirements for universities participating in research related to the industry. – **HB 847**

Staggering the Terms for Georgia's Seed Development Commission

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 894, carried by Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla), would stagger the terms for members of Georgia's Seed Development Commission. – **HB 894**

Updating the Statewide Notification System for Timber Harvesting

Effective: Upon Governor's Signature

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) carried House Bill 897, which would require the State Forestry Commission to construct a website that provides a statewide notification system for people or organizations harvesting timber. – **HB 897**

Providing Additional Requirements for Service Contract Renewals

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta) carried House Bill 1039 which would require additional requirements for parties entering into an automatic service contract renewal for a period of more than 12 months. – **HB 1039**

Establishing the Agricultural Commodity Commission for Wine and Grapes

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Lee Anderson (R – Grovetown) carried House Bill 1093 which would establish the Agricultural Commodity Commission for Wine and Grapes. – **HB 1093**

Appropriations

The Fiscal Year 2020 Amended Budget

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 792, carried by Sen. Jack Hill (R – Reidsville), is the Amended Fiscal Year (AFY) 2020 Budget. The AFY20 Budget totals \$27.3 billion. – **HB 792**

For the full text of the Amended Fiscal year 2020 Budget, click here: http://www.senate.ga.gov/sbeo/Documents/AppropriationsDocuments/FY2020/Amended/AFY20_CC_full%20bill_FINAL.pdf

The Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia) carried House Bill 793, which is the General Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget. The FY2021 budget totals \$26 billion. – **HB 793**

For the full text of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, click here: http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/Documents/2021_FiscalYear/FY_2021_Bill_Conference_Committee.pdf

For video archives of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Hearings, click here: <https://livestream.com/accounts/26021522/events/8730585>

For video archives of the full Senate, House and Joint Appropriations Meetings, click here: <https://livestream.com/accounts/25225474/events/8824293>

Banking and Financial Institutions

Creating Banking Improvement Zones

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 20, sponsored by Sen. Michael Rhett (D – Marietta), would allow for the establishment of banking improvement zones in under-served areas as authorized by the Department of Community Affairs. Local governments within banking improvement zones would be able to deposit funds into the banks with an agreed upon fixed interest rate at or below the bank's two-year certificate of deposit rate. – **SB 20**

Georgia Installment Loan Act

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Senate Bill 462, sponsored by Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon), would rename industrial loans as installment loans and transfer their regulation from the Industrial Loan Commissioner to the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance. – **SB 462**

Updating Georgia's Banking and Financial Institutions Code

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 781, carried by Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon), would create revisions to streamline existing statutes in order to make department regulations more efficient. – **HB 781**

Economic Development and Tourism

Revising The Definition of Residential Industrialized Building

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 1008, carried by Sen. Lee Anderson (R – Govetown), would revise the definition of 'residential industrialized building' to provide that the structure can contain permanent metal chassis. – **HB 1008**

Education and Youth

Strengthening Financial Management of Local School Systems

Effective: July 1, 2021

Senate Bill 68, sponsored by Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (D – Dawson), would require the Office of Student Achievement to monitor the financial management of local school systems that repeatedly report audit irregularities or budget deficits. SB 68 would require those schools to submit a corrective action plan to the Georgia Department of Education. SB 68 would also require the State Board of Education to train newly elected school board members regarding the school system's most recent audit. – **SB 68**

Reducing the Frequency of Mandatory Educational Assessments

Effective: August 1, 2020

Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville) sponsored Senate Bill 367, which would reduce the number of mandatory state assessments for K-12 students, change testing dates for state assessments and grant the Georgia Department of Education the ability to analyze assessments implemented by local school boards. – **SB 367**

Permitting Additional Students to Take Courses at College and Career Academies

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 430, sponsored by Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick), would allow home school and private school students to take courses at an eligible college and career academy under certain conditions. – **SB 430**

Defining "On-Time Graduation Rate"

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa) sponsored Senate Bill 431, which would establish a definition for "on-time graduation rate" within the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. – **SB 431**

Creation of Educators Appeal Process

Effective: July 1, 2021

House Bill 86, carried by Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga) would create an appeals process for teachers with a summative performance evaluation rating of "unsatisfactory" or "ineffective." – **HB 86**

Funding For Local Charter Schools

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan) carried House Bill 755, which would require each local board of education to provide local charter schools with preliminary allotment sheets for the upcoming fiscal year after the local school system receives its sheet from the Georgia Department of Education. – **HB 755**

Requiring State Board of Education to Assess Foster Care Student’s Exposure to Trauma

Effective: August 1, 2021

Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan) carried House Bill 855, which would require the State Board of Education to adopt rules and protocols to assess whether exposure to trauma has had an adverse impact on a foster care student’s educational performance, both academically and behaviorally. – **HB 855**

Extending The Health Insurance Fund

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville) carried House Bill 957, which would authorize certain charter schools employees to be included in the health insurance fund for public school teachers, as well as provide that records created, received or maintained by a state charter school are property of such school. – **HB 957**

Finance

Revising Ad Valorem Tax Appeals

Effective: Upon Governor’s Approval

Senate Bill 410, sponsored by Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon), would allow a taxpayer to recover certain litigation costs after appealing to the superior court if the final determination value is 85% or less of the value set by the board of assessors. Additionally, the bill would allow ad valorem tax appeal hearings to be done virtually. – **SB 410**

Exempting Taxes on Hurricane Michael Relief

Effective: Upon Governor’s Approval

Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega) carried House Bill 105, which would establish an excise tax on rideshare trips, as well as create an income tax exemption for payments related to Hurricane Michael relief. – **HB 105**

Sales Tax from Marketplace Sellers and Facilitators

Effective: April 1, 2020

House Bill 276, carried by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome), would require the collection of sales tax from marketplace facilitators who conduct at least \$100,000 in sales to Georgia customers. The sales tax would be remitted to the Department of Revenue through the marketplace facilitator on behalf of the marketplace seller. – **HB 276**

Amending TAVT Local Distribution Percentages

Effective: Upon Governor’s Approval

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome) carried House Bill 779, which would revise the amount of distribution percentages for title ad valorem tax proceeds collected in incorporated areas of a county. These percentages would differ depending on if the municipality does or does not have an independent school district. – **HB 779**

Extending the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Period for Loaner Vehicles

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 808, carried by Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla), would extend the period in which a loaner vehicle may be exempt from an ad valorem tax from 30 days within a 366 day period to 45 days within a 366 day period. – **HB 808**

Annual Internal Revenue Code Conformity and Tax Credits

Effective: Upon Governor's Signature

House Bill 846, carried by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome), is composed of four sections. The first two would provide the annual Internal Revenue Code update, to ensure conformity for all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, and require the Department of Revenue to establish a direct pay reporting program for sales and use tax. The second portion of the bill would provide for qualifications for job tax credits for certain personal protective equipment manufacturers, as well as certain job or headquarters tax credit qualifications for 2020 and 2021 taxpayers. – **HB 846**

Expanding State Investments and Environmental Finance Authority Loans

Effective: Upon Governor's Signature

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga) carried House Bill 901, which would expand the list of investments the state treasurer may invest in to include shares of limited mutual funds. It would also as well as provide the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority with the power to make loans to local governments and nongovernmental organizations for projects that protect land and water. – **HB 901**

Revising the Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 1037, carried by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome), would revise the definition of “production expenditures” and “qualified production activities,” in addition to amending the process for production companies seeking tax credits. For companies seeking a credit above a certain threshold, they must submit an application and audit through the Department of Revenue, while production companies seeking an additional percentage tax credit must be commercially distributed in multiple markets within five years. – **HB 1037**

Government Oversight

Utilizing Opinions of Value

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Bill Heath (R – Bremen) carried House Bill 780, which would allow the State Properties Commission to take into account opinions of value when determining the valuation of state property, under certain circumstances. – **HB 780**

Granting of Easements

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Resolution 1094, carried by Sen. Bill Heath (R – Bremen), would authorize non-exclusive easements to be granted for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of certain facilities that reside on property owned by the state of Georgia in Barrow, Calhoun, Chatham, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Crisp, Dougherty, Douglas, McIntosh, Muscogee, Paulding, Polk and Richmond Counties. – **HR 1094**

Permitting the Conveyance of State Owned Property

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Resolution 1167, carried by Sen. Bill Heath (R – Bremen), would allow for the conveyance or lease of state owned property in several counties across Georgia. – **HR 1167**

Naming Jack Hill State Park

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Resolution 1300, carried by Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahunega), would rename Gordononia-Alatamaha State Park as Jack Hill State Park, in recognition of the late Sen. Jack Hill and grant certain easements in Glynn and Murray Counties. – **HR 1300**

Health and Human Services

Revising Criteria for Copayments

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 28, sponsored by Sen. Lester Jackson (D – Savannah), would define a health benefit plan and require copayments to be “reasonable” in relation to the benefit they cover. – **SB 28**

Allowing for Additional Staff Under Physicians

Effective: Upon Governor's Signature

Senate Bill 321, sponsored by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome), would raise the number of physician assistants, a physician can supervise at one time. – **SB 321**

Creating Childhood Cancer Awareness Day

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta) sponsored Senate Bill 340, which would designate September 1st of each year as Childhood Cancer Awareness Day in Georgia. – **SB 340**

Food Service by Nonprofit Organizations

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) sponsored Senate Bill 345 which allows nonprofit organizations to prepare and serve food as long as they comply with health and safety requirements from the Georgia Department of Public Health. – **SB 345**

Georgia COVID-19 Pandemic Business Safety Act

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome) sponsored Senate Bill 359 which would specify that healthcare facilities, healthcare providers, entities, or individuals shall be held liable for damages in a COVID-19 liability claim, unless it is proved that gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, or infliction of harm can be proved. – **SB 359**

Amending Department of Public Health Sections of the Georgia Code

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia) sponsored Senate Bill 372, which would update and clarify several sections of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated related to the Georgia Department of Public Health. – **SB 372**

Early Prescription Refills During Emergencies Act

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Senate Bill 391, sponsored by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta), would require health insurers to allow early 30-day prescription refills during a state of emergency. This does not include early refills for Schedule II controlled substances. – **SB 391**

Allowing Variability in Investments by Hospital Authorities

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 395, sponsored by Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah), would expand the standard of indigency for hospital authority irrevocable trusts and grant greater flexibility in investment to certain authorities. – **SB 395**

Creating the Georgia All-Payer Claims Database

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Senate Bill 482, sponsored by Sen. Dean Burke (R – Bainbridge), would establish the Georgia All-Payer Claims Database (GAPCD), a public website allowing consumers to view costs, utilization and quality of healthcare in Georgia. It would also establish an advisory committee to oversee the GAPCD and institute a violation for failing to submit claims data to the database. – **SB 482**

Allowing Out of State Dentists to Practice

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 521, carried by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta), would permit the Georgia Board of Dentistry to provide temporary licenses for out of state dentists to provide care at certain approved charitable dental events. – **HB 521**

The “Surprise Billing Transparency Act”

Effective: November 1, 2020

House Bill 789, carried by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome), would require insurance companies to publicly display health benefit plan surprise bill ratings for in-network hospitals. The bill would also allow the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance to establish regulations on these surprise bill rating requirements. – **HB 789**

Allowing Additional Prescription Drugs During Emergencies

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) carried House Bill 791, which would require insurance companies to cover prescription drugs for their subscribers during times of a declared emergency or areas under a hurricane warning. – **HB 791**

“The Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act”

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 888, carried by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome), would establish a framework that offers certain protections against surprise billing. This includes a system of arbitration to resolve payment disputes between the health insurer, provider and facility, as well as established insurer payment measures related to non-participating providers in emergency and nonemergency medical services. – **HB 888**

Changing PBM Processes

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 918, carried by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome), would make several changes to how Pharmacy Benefit Manager Pharmacies are licensed and audited, and would make changes to the Pharmacy Anti-Steering and Transparency Act. – **HB 918**

Expanding Medicaid Coverage for Postpartum Care

Effective: Upon Appropriations Funding

House Bill 1114, sponsored by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta), would require the Georgia Department of Community Health to provide Medicaid coverage for lactation care and services, as well as postpartum care for six months post-birth. – **HB 1114**

Lacee’s Law

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) carried House Bill 1125 which would require the Georgia Department of Public Health to create a list of factors that may lead to higher-risk of developing breast cancer. Additionally, the bill would require the State Health Benefit Plan to offer breast cancer screenings to high-risk individuals age 30 and older. – **HB 1125**

Higher Education

Modifying the Name for the Office of College and Career Transitions

Effective: Upon Governor’s Approval

Senate Bill 416, sponsored by Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga), would reduce the salaries of members of the General Assembly by 10% for the 2021 fiscal year and the salary of the Lt. Governor by 14% for the current fiscal year. – **SB 416**

Dual Enrollment Act

Effective: July 1, 2020

House Bill 444, carried by Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough), would adjust the number of credit hours allowed under the dual enrollment program to a maximum of 30, while also limiting the grade levels allowed to participate. It would also restrict the credit hours students take to primarily core courses. – **HB 444**

Insurance and Labor

Updating the Credit for Reinsurance Model Law

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry) sponsored Senate Bill 188, which would allow an insurance company that buys reinsurance to receive credit on its balance sheet for the liability that it has ceded to the reinsurance company. Additionally, the bill would include the reinsurance model law of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in the Georgia Insurance Code. – **SB 188**

Georgia Right to Shop Act

Effective: July 1, 2021

Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah) sponsored Senate Bill 303, which would require insurance companies to publish the costs and quality metrics for nonemergency treatments and procedures. This allows consumers to have full access to data for comparing prices and quality across companies. – **SB 303**

Changing Regulations for Pharmacy Benefit Managers

Effective: July 1, 2021

Sen. Dean Burke (R – Bainbridge) sponsored Senate Bill 313, which would adjust the regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefit managers by establishing reporting requirements and addressing issues related to rebates, steering and duties to health plans. – **SB 313**

Changing the Time Frame for Elevator Inspections

Effective: Upon Governor’s Approval

Senate Bill 377, sponsored by Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson), would reduce the number of required elevator inspections from once every six months to once every twelve months, with the exception of elevators on certain public transit systems. Similarly, SB 377 would provide the Georgia Insurance Commissioner the discretion to pay fees to people carrying out certain administrative functions and repeal portions of Georgia Code excluding certain buildings from local regulatory building requirements. – **SB 377**

Repealing the Sunset Provision for Sick Leave Requirements

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough) sponsored Senate Bill 408, which would remove the sunset provision for sick leave requirements related to the care of immediate family members. A secondary portion of the bill would provide the Labor Commissioner with emergency rulemaking authority, amend the calculation of maximum benefits payable and authorize a work-sharing program. – **SB 408**

Requiring Proposed Commission Rates for Health Benefit Plans

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 716, carried by Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah), would require health benefit plan carriers that issue through an agent, to file its proposed commission rates with the Department of Insurance. Additionally, the bill would establish a payment of commission upon policy renewal. – **HB 716**

Amending the Georgia Motor Carrier Act of 2012

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 758, carried by Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula), would amend the Georgia Motor Carrier Act of 2012 by defining a motor carrier improvement and prohibiting the consideration of the deployment or implementation of such when evaluating the employee status of an individual. – **HB 758**

Amending Special Insurance Fraud Fund Assessments

Effective: July 1, 2020

House Bill 893, carried by Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry), would revise the timeline for when insurance companies must submit their assessments to fund the Special Insurance Fraud Fund. Under the new revisions, assessments are due on September 1 of the year of assessment. – **HB 893**

Revising Regulations for Pharmacy Benefit Managers

Effective: July 1, 2021

House Bill 946, carried by Sen. Dean Burke (R – Bainbridge), would revise the regulatory framework of pharmacy benefit managers through increased filing and licensing fees, the prohibition of steering, as well as the requirement for certain reporting and national drug acquisition costs. Similarly, HB 946 would provide the Insurance Commission the authority to enforce such regulations. – **HB 946**

Expanding Membership in the Georgia Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 1050, carried by Sen. Marty Harbin (R – Tyrone), would add health care corporations and health maintenance organizations under the membership terms for the Georgia Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association, while also providing for the terms of coverage and the Association's duties. – **HB 1050**

Revising Certain Insurance Requirements for Condominiums

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 1070, carried by Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville), would require condominium associations and unit owners to share copies of certificates of insurance and adjuster between one another in the case of water damage or water peril claims. – **HB 1070**

Establishing Workplace Requirements for Expressing Breast Milk and Labor Rules

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 1090, carried by Sen. Zahra Karinshak (D – Duluth), would require employers to provide a reasonable break time and location for employees that may need to express breast milk. The bill would also amend the calculation of maximum benefits payable, create a work-sharing program and provide the Labor Commissioner with the authority to adopt emergency rules during a declared state-wide emergency. – **HB 1090**

Interstate Cooperation

Revising the Licensure Process for Certain Healthcare Professionals

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 752, carried by Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White), would revise the “Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act,” as it relates to fingerprint background checks. Under HB 752, the State Board of Physical Therapy and State Board of Examiners of Psychologists will be given the authority to conduct national background checks through the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Georgia Crime Information Center fingerprint submissions, and satisfactory fingerprint record checks will be required for the licensure of physical therapists and assistants. – **HB 752**

Judiciary

Method to Abolish County Police Departments

Effective: Upon Governor’s Approval

Senate Bill 38, sponsored by Sen. William Ligon (R – White Oak), would allow a county police department to be abolished either through an act of the General Assembly or by a resolution of the local governing authority, as long as that resolution is adopted by voters in the county through a referendum. – **SB 38**

Revising DNR Requirements for Minors

Effective: Upon Governor’s Approval

Senate Bill 104, sponsored by Sen. Chuck Payne (R – Dalton), would clarify that a “do not resuscitate” (DNR) order for a minor may only be carried out if the parent gives explicit written or oral consent. SB 104 also changes the definition of a “parent” in regards to DNR orders to include a legal guardian or a person with legal authority. – **SB 104**

Adjusting the Record Restriction Process

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Tonya Anderson (D – Lithonia) sponsored Senate Bill 288, which would expand the ability of certain individuals to request that their records be restricted for misdemeanors and conditional discharges. It would also adjust the automatic record restriction procedure for local ordinance violations and ban employers from bringing up criminal records of employees in legal action. – **SB 288**

Waiver and Release of Lien and Bond Rights

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 315, sponsored by Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R – Marietta), clarifies that mechanics or materialmen signing an “interim waiver and release” only waive their lien and bond rights and not other rights. – **SB 315**

Changing Duties and Standards for Nonprofit Corporations and Other Organizations

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon) sponsored Senate Bill 373, which would adjust the duties and standards of conduct for directors and officers of nonprofit corporations, electric management corporations and foreign electric cooperatives. – **SB 373**

Code Revision Updates

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick) sponsored Senate Bill 429, which would make numerous updates recommended by the Code Revision Commission, including grammar, terminology and punctuation, throughout Georgia Code. – **SB 429**

The Survivors First Act

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough) sponsored Senate Bill 435, which would allow victims of human trafficking to petition that their convictions be vacated if they were a direct result of their trafficking. – **SB 435**

Adjusting Procedures for Foster Family Involvement in Hearings

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan) sponsored Senate Bill 439, which would modify the process for involving foster families in dependency proceedings, placement changes and post-termination proceedings. – **SB 439**

Changing Regulations for Property Owners' Association

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 442, sponsored by Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick), would prohibit the addition of certain amendments to the property owners' association instrument that would stop a non-owner occupied lot from still being leased or rented. – **SB 442**

Revising Procedures for Garnishment

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro) sponsored Senate Bill 443, which would establish uniform regulations on garnishment proceedings and actions. – **SB 443**

Clarifying Actions on Improvements to Real Property

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon) sponsored Senate Bill 451, which would revise Georgia's statute of repose to add that actions resulting from improvements of real property would not apply to actions for breach of contract. – **SB 451**

Modifying Investigative Procedures for Family Violence

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) sponsored Senate Bill 477, which would provide a definition for a "predominant aggressor" and clarify that law enforcement officers will be allowed to determine the aggressor when evaluating an incident related to domestic or family violence. – **SB 477**

Creating Benefit Corporations

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro) carried House Bill 230, which would allow a new type of corporation, called a benefit corporation, to be established in Georgia. Benefit corporations would be for-profit companies that take into consideration issues that would improve public welfare. – **HB 230**

Establishing a Hate Crimes Statute

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens) carried House Bill 426 which would enact a hate crime penalty statute. Specifically, HB 426 states that if it is determined that, beyond a reasonable doubt, that a victim of a crime was selected because of their actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, mental disability or physical disability, the judge will impose a punishment of between 6 and 12 months imprisonment and a fine of no more than \$5,000 if the offense was classified as a designated misdemeanor. If the offense was a felony, the sentence ordered will be up to two years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$5,000. HB 426 would also establish certain reporting requirements. – **HB 426**

Reviewing Conviction Data of Healthcare Workers

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 578, carried by Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah), would allow the Department of Human Services to receive conviction data on volunteers, students and interns who would be directly involved in the care, treatment, custodial responsibilities of a patient or for administrative support functions. – **HB 578**

Adding Superior Court Judges

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 786, carried by Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro), would increase the number of judges on the Cobb Circuit to 11, Flint Circuit to four and Ogeechee Circuit to four. – **HB 786**

Removing License Restrictions For Certain Offenses

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 799, carried by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), would remove current prohibitions on a person's ability to obtain a temporary driving permit or have their license reinstated after being convicted for a driving under the influence offense. – **HB 799**

Updating Code on Wills and Trusts

Effective: January 1, 2021

Updating Code on Wills and Trusts

Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro) carried House Bill 865, which would make various changes across multiple Titles of Georgia Code relating to wills, trusts and estates. – **HB 865**

Establishing New Crimes Related to Abuse

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell) carried House Bill 911, which would create a new offense of improper sexual contact by a foster parent and establish penalties for violations of this offense. – **HB 911**

Allowing Caregivers To Arrange Babysitting for Foster Children

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough) carried House Bill 912, which would allow caregivers to arrange for short term babysitting of a child in foster care. HB 912 would also authorize the Department of Human Services to contract with child-placing agencies for certain casework services and to require different levels of training for foster parents. – **HB 912**

Updating Fair Housing Regulations

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Harold Jones (D – Augusta) carried House Bill 969 which would make numerous updates to policies related to fair housing practices. – **HB 969**

Revising Requirements for the Sexual Offender Registry

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson) carried House Bill 983 which would make numerous revisions to Georgia’s Sexual Offender Registry including: adjusting the registration requirements for offenders who reside in privately operated hospice facilities and requiring offenders to provide landline and mobile phone numbers. – **HB 983**

Specifying Time Period for Motions

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro) carried House Bill 984, which would specify the time period in which a defendant is required to file certain motions and provides that full credit will be given to an individual for each day spent in confinement. HB 984 passed with a vote of 45 to 0. – **HB 984**

Reporting Child Abuse

Effective: July 1, 2020

House Bill 993, carried by Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro), would require that the state registrar provide certain documents related to child abuse or neglect to the Department of Family and Child Services (DFCS) and instruct DFCS to work with the Department of Public Health to create policies on how to send these records. – **HB 993**

Proposing a Constitutional Amendment on Waiving Sovereign Immunity

Effective: Upon Ratification of the 2020 Ballot Question

House Resolution 1023, carried by Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon), would propose a constitutional amendment that, if adopted by voters through a referendum, would allow citizens to petition for declaratory relief from the courts in the event a state or local government acts in a way that is inconsistent with the state or federal constitution. HR 1023 passed with a vote of 50 to 0. – **HR 1023**

Natural Resources and The Environment

Increasing Fees on Coal Ash

Effective: Upon Governor’s Approval

Senate Bill 123, sponsored by Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick), would increase the surcharges on depositing coal combustion residual ash into certain solid waste facilities from \$1.00 to \$2.50. – **SB 123**

Reporting Ethylene Oxide Spills

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough) sponsored Senate Bill 426, which would require any spill of ethylene oxide to be reported to the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources within 24 hours of the discovery of the spill. It would also create a public website with information on all reported spills. – **SB 426**

Designating Certain Water and Sewer Agencies as Local Issuing Authorities

Effective: Upon Governor’s Approval

Senate Bill 445, sponsored by Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon), would allow certain water and sewer authorities to be certified as a local issuing authority and to grant permits for land-disturbing activities in their service areas. – **SB 445**

Granting Historical Preservation Duties to the Department of Community Affairs

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 473, sponsored by Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla), would transfer the responsibilities related to historic preservation from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and grant funds raised from historical preservation license plates to the DCA. – **SB 473**

Authorizing the Governor to Assign Welcome Center Operations

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) sponsored Senate Bill 474, which would allow the Governor to assign the responsibility of constructing, maintaining and operating certain welcome and tourist centers to the Department of Natural Resources. – **SB 474**

Long-term Anchoring Regulations

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 833, carried by Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick), would allow the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to create regulations related to long-term anchoring in Georgia's rivers, and would remove existing portions of current law requiring vessels to maintain certain records on pump-out facilities used to expel sewage. – **HB 833**

Regulating Saw Palmetto Berries

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 966, carried by Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla), would establish regulations on the harvest and sale of saw palmetto berries and would establish penalties for violations. – **HB 966**

Updating Hunting Regulations

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) carried House Bill 998 which would update regulations on hunting under the influence, designate the Shoal Bass as the official state riverine sport fish of Georgia and permit the use of air guns for hunting, under certain circumstances. – **HB 998**

Regulating Use of Domestic Septage

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Lee Anderson (R – Grovetown) carried House Bill 1057, which would prohibit the distribution of fertilizers or selling of liming materials which contain domestic septage. – **HB 1057**

Public Safety

Adjusting Custody Provisions for State Inmates

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia) sponsored Senate Bill 301, which would allow a county sheriff to request that offenders who commit an additional misdemeanor or felony crime while in the custody of the Department of Corrections (DOC) to remain in DOC custody instead of being transferred into local custody. – **SB 301**

Revising Processes for Abandoned Vessels

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 308, sponsored by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta), would remove the Georgia Bureau of Investigation from the process of identifying and investigating abandoned vessels and withdraws the requirement to notify the Georgia Crime Information Center of abandoned vessels found. – **SB 308**

Creating a Special License Plate

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Senate Bill 336, sponsored by Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega), would create a special license plate for U.S. Army Rangers, graduates of the U.S. Army Ranger School and recipients of the Meritorious Service Medal. – **SB 336**

Reactivating Retired Peace Officers and Correctional Officers During Emergencies

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 341, sponsored by Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula), would allow retired peace officers and correctional officers, who maintain their certification, to be utilized by local police and sheriff departments to assist in times of a declared emergency or disaster. – **SB 341**

Establishing the Georgia Volunteer Fire Service Council

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 342, sponsored by Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson), would create a process for certification and form minimum requirements for volunteer firefighters and volunteer fire departments. It would also establish a Georgia Volunteer Fire Service Council. – **SB 342**

Developing the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Legal Division

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough) sponsored Senate Bill 393, which would create the Legal Division of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and give attorneys authority to prosecute civil or criminal cases at the request of the Attorney General, a district attorney, a solicitor-general or a United States Attorney. – **SB 393**

Expanding the Authority of the Attorney General

Effective: July 1, 2020

Senate Bill 394, sponsored by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), would grant authority to the Attorney General to investigate sex trafficking and affairs of the state, as well as investigate and prosecute Medicaid fraud. – **SB 394**

Changing Circumstances for Unsecured Judicial Release

Effective: January 1, 2021

Updating Code on Wills and Trusts

Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula) sponsored Senate Bill 402, which would change the conditions in which an individual can be released on their own recognizance. – **SB 402**

Revising the Time for Disposing of Unclaimed Bonds

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 446, sponsored by Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry), would reduce the time for the disposal of unclaimed bonds from seven years to two years. – **SB 446**

Defining How Suspended Licenses May Be Sent

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell) carried House Bill 463 which would define how a notice of a suspended license can be sent, specify that Georgia enter into commercial license reciprocity agreements with foreign political subdivisions and outline the framework for issuing electronic driver's licenses. – **HB 463**

The “Robert Argo Disaster Volunteer Relief Act”

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens) carried House Bill 487, which would expand the state's Disaster Volunteer Relief Act to include any state employee who is a certified disaster service volunteer of the Civil Air Patrol, under certain conditions. – **HB 487**

Updating Distribution Priorities for Certain Fees

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 576, carried by Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson), would make changes to how partial payments of fines, bond forfeitures, surcharges and other fees are distributed and received by a superior court. – **HB 576**

Updating List of Dangerous Drugs

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 759, carried by Sen. Dean Burke (R – Bainbridge), would add new substances to the definition of dangerous drug and add Solriamfetol as a Schedule IV substance. – **HB 759**

Revoking Commercial Licenses for Traffickers

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 823, carried by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), would prohibit an individual who knowingly uses a commercial vehicle to traffic someone for labor or sexual servitude from operating a commercial vehicle in Georgia for life and would revoke their commercial driver's license. – **HB 823**

Bias Motivated Intimidation

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula) carried House Bill 838, which would specify that anyone who maliciously and intentionally intimidates, harasses or terrorizes another individual because of their status as a first responder would commit the new crime of bias motivated intimidation. The bill establishes that anyone found guilty of this offense would be sentenced to imprisonment of one to five years, a fine of up to \$5,000 or both. – **HB 838**

Defining Commercial Motor Vehicle

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) carried House Bill 861 which would redefine the term “commercial motor vehicle” in Georgia Code to clarify that such vehicles may be used for interstate or intrastate commerce, or both. HB 861 also includes language adopting federal regulations on commercial motor vehicles. – **HB 861**

Revising Standards for Low Speed Vehicles

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick) carried House Bill 877, which would make changes to how a slow moving vehicle is defined and allow converted motor vehicles to be issued a tag and title after passing inspection. – **HB 877**

Allowing Dependents to Claim Indemnification Benefits

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) carried House Bill 1017, which would allow indemnification benefits of a public safety officer who suffers a brain injury in the line of duty to be paid to their legal guardian. It would also allow death benefits of a public safety officer, who dies in the line of duty, to be paid to a dependent child, as long as the child is between 18 and 24 and attends a postsecondary institution. – **HB 1017**

Regulated Industries and Utilities

Altering Revenue Bond Requirements and Voting Exemptions

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Senate Bill 43, sponsored by Sen. Chuck Payne (R – Dalton), would add “transmission” to the list of acceptable uses of electric or gas revenue bonds. SB 43 would also allow governmental bodies with electric utilities worth \$300 million or more to be exempt from the current voting requirements regarding its authority to issue a bond certificate. – **SB 43**

Allowing the Sale of Tobacco Off-Premise

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Lee Anderson (R – Grovetown) sponsored Senate Bill 144 which would enable the Department of Revenue (DOR) to issue off-premise sales permits for tobacco products at specific tobacco events. Permits would be valid for 1-10 days & DOR would set rules and regulations related to the permits. – **SB 144**

Designing Qualifications for Structural Engineers

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 310, sponsored by Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla), would create a legal definition and establish qualifications in Georgia for the title of professional structural engineer. – **SB 310**

Prohibiting Tobacco and Vapor Products for Youth

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Senate Bill 375, sponsored by Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga), would prohibit the sale and possession of tobacco and vapor products for persons under the age of 21 and establish penalties for noncompliance. – **SB 375**

The “Georgia Broadband Opportunity Act”

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 244, carried by Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon), would require Electric Membership Corporations to comply with rates, fees, terms, conditions and specifications for pole attachment requirements by communications service providers. Additionally, this legislation would provide for Public Service Commission oversight. HB 244 passed with a vote of 31 to 22. – **HB 244**

The “Georgia Peer-to-Peer Car-Sharing Program Act”

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 337, carried by Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon), would require that peer-to-peer car-sharing programs assume liability over the owner for bodily injury or property damage to a third party during the car-sharing period. – **HB 337**

Regulating Trauma Scene Cleanup Services

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) carried House Bill 417, which would define trauma scene as a location soiled or contaminated by biomedical waste or infectious diseases due to a homicide, suicide or decomposition of a body. Additionally, this bill requires practitioners to be registered with the Secretary of the State and to submit a fingerprint based background check. – **HB 417**

Prohibiting the Use of Creosote or Naphthenate Treated Railroad Ties

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 857, carried by Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa), would prohibit the Director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources from issuing permits for railroad ties treated with creosote or naphthenate for purposes of commercial electricity generation. – **HB 857**

Allowing For Alcohol Delivery

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 879, carried by Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens), would allow for home delivery of beer and wine from grocery and convenience stores, as well as from alcohol delivery apps. – **HB 879**

The Georgia Podiatric Practice Act

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 932, carried by Sen. Frank Ginn (R – Danielsville), would authorize Doctors of Podiatric Medicine to organize a professional corporation and require that applicants for licensure pass the fingerprint background check conducted by the Georgia Crime Information Center and Federal Bureau Investigation. – **HB 932**

Gas Pipelines Operator Violations

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 972, carried by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), would provide civil penalties when an operator transporting natural gas violates or fails to comply with orders of the Public Service Commission. – **HB 972**

Increasing the Protection of Elderly Persons

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough) carried House Bill 987, which would amend the “Disabled Adults and Elder Persons Protection Act” in order to enhance protections for elderly persons who reside in care homes or assisted living communities. Additionally, HB 987 would revise the structure and name of the State Board of Nursing Home Administrators. – **HB 987**

Retirement

Creditable Service Requirements for the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick) sponsored Senate Bill 26 which would allow the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia to count past service in the Georgia Defined Contribution Plan as creditable service. – **SB 26**

Public Employer Contributions to Employees' Retirement System of Georgia (ERSGA)

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 176, sponsored by Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta), would require public employers to contribute to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia on behalf of returning retired employees. – **SB 176**

Modifying the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell) sponsored Senate Bill 249, which would raise the monthly contribution amount and retirement benefits payable to members of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund, as well as revise the amount it collects from fines in criminal cases. It would also allow for the inclusion of jail officers on the list of persons eligible to participate in the fund. – **SB 249**

Allowing Alternative Investments by the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 294, sponsored by Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta), would permit the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRS) to make alternative investments of up to 5% of the value of the TRS fund. – **SB 294**

Amending Benefit Guidelines for the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund

Effective: July 1, 2020

House Bill 245, carried by Sen. Gail Davenport (D – Jonesboro), would allow the spouse of a surviving Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund member to continue receiving benefits after remarriage. – **HB 245**

Repealing Certain Payment Requirements to Teachers Retirement System

Effective: July 1, 2020

House Bill 292, carried by Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry), would eliminate certain payments required to be made by the University System of Georgia to the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia. – **HB 292**

Requiring Membership to the Georgia Judicial Retirement System for Judges

Effective: July 1, 2020

Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta) carried House Bill 663, which would require judges employed full time to become members of the Georgia Judicial Retirement System. – **HB 663**

Updating Office of Legislative Counsel Retirement Options

Effective: July 1, 2020

House Bill 664, carried by Sen. William Ligon (R - Brunswick), would require full-time employees of the Office of Legislative Counsel, who are employed on June 30, 2020 and after, to become enrolled in the Georgia Judicial Retirement System. Current employees will have the option to remain in the Employees Retirement System or to enroll in the Judicial Retirement System. – **HB 664**

Rules

Urging Congress to Secure Citizenship of Internationally Adopted Adults

Sen. P.K. Marin (R - Lawrenceville) sponsored Senate Resolution 376 which would urge the United States Congress to enact legislation to secure the citizenship of internationally adopted adult individuals. – **SR 376**

Acknowledging Human Trafficking in Georgia

Senate Resolution 432, sponsored by Sen. Donzella James (D – Atlanta), would raise awareness of human trafficking throughout Georgia and recognized Pink Bootz on the Ground for their efforts in assisting victims of human trafficking. – **SR 432**

Urging the Creation of a Workplace Wellness Program

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga) sponsored Senate Resolution 644, which would urge the Georgia Building Authority to provide for certain space within the former state judicial building to be used for the implementation of a workplace wellness program for the General Assembly and state agencies. – **SR 644**

Encouraging an Assessment of the Georgia High School Association

Senate Resolution 1026, sponsored by Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta), would encourage the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) to perform a thorough assessment of its operations and practices pertaining to the inclusion of GHSA member officials on the GHSA Executive Committee. – **SR 1026**

Study Committees:

Senate Resolution 87 - Senate Study Committee on Digital Education and Screen Time in Georgia Public Schools

Senate Resolution 470 - Senate Study Committee on Music Workforce Development

Senate Resolution 483 - Senate Study Committee on Georgia County Boards of Elections and Registration

Senate Resolution 520 - Senate Study Committee on Midwifery Practices

Senate Resolution 899 - Senate Alcohol Franchise Law Study Committee

Senate Resolution 959 - Senate Systemic Inequalities Study Committee

Senate Resolution 981 - Senate Study Committee on Surgical Smoke Evacuation Systems

Senate Resolution 1007 - Senate Law Enforcement Reform Study Committee

Senate Resolution 1024 - Senate Coin Operated Amusement Machine Study Committee

Senate Resolution 1035 - Senate Education Adult Students Study Committee

Science and Technology

Prohibiting Falsely Created, Sexually Explicit Images or Videos

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White) sponsored Senate Bill 337, which would expand the prohibitions related to transmitting sexually explicit content to include falsely created images or videos. – **SB 337**

Prohibiting the Sharing of Unlicensed Material

Effective: Upon Governor's Signature

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) carried House Bill 341, which would add memory cards, flash drives, hard drives and data storage devices to the list of devices whose data may not be transferred without the owner's consent. – **HB 341**

State and Local Governmental Operations

Adjusting Pay Schedule for Constitutional Officers

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 295, sponsored by Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa), would ensure the minimum salary program for Georgia's constitutional officers is not increased by any cost-of-living adjustments or performance-based increases that were applied prior to January 1, 2020. – **SB 295**

Revising the Homestead Option Sales and Use Tax

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough) carried House Bill 1102 which would make revisions to the Homestead Option Sales and Use Tax, also known as HOST, by authorizing the replacement of the tax through a county referendum. – **HB 1102**

State Institutions and Property

Providing Additional Options for the Disposal of Surplus Property

Effective: January 1, 2021

House Bill 848, carried by Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla), would provide the Department of Administrative Services with further options concerning the disposal of surplus property. . – **HB 848**

Creating New Guidelines For State Contracts

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick) carried House Bill 953, which would add a new Code section to provide that certain terms in particular types of state contracts entered into by the Department of Administrative Services become unenforceable. – **HB 953**

Honoring Roger C. Dill

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) carried House Resolution 326 which would recognize Mr. Roger C. Dill of Irwin County and name the Georgia Department of Transportation's district office in Tift County in his honor. – **HR 326**

Transportation

Adopting Safety Requirements For EMCs Working Along Railroads

Effective: January 1, 2021

Senate Bill 370, sponsored by Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega), would require electric membership corporations to comply with safety and permit regulations of the Federal Railroad Authority when electric easements are used for broadband services. – **SB 370**

Investing in Georgia's Railroads and Railways

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega) sponsored Senate Bill 371, which would allow the state to invest in railways and railroad equipment and provides authority for the Georgia Department of Transportation to administer the Georgia Freight Railroad Program. – **SB 371**

Dedicating Bridges and Roads

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) sponsored Senate Resolution 844, which would dedicate one state bridge each to Deputy Nicolas Dixon, Mr. Richard L. Jackson, Mr. Tom Price, Mr. Calvin McLarin and Mr. Joseph Vickers. – **SR 844**

Restructuring the Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega) carried House Bill 511, which would make a number of changes to how the Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority (ATL) operates. This includes transferring the administration of the ATL to the Georgia Department of Transportation, restructuring the process of the selection of the ATL's Board of Directors and requiring that all properties that participate in ATL transit services display the ATL logo by 2023. – **HB 511**

Creating the Georgia Freight Railroad Program

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega), carried House Bill 820, which would create the Georgia Freight Railroad Program. The Program would be administered by the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation and would be composed of three subprograms: the Rail Enhancement Plan, the Rail Preservation Plan, and the Rail Industrial Plan. – **HB 820**

Updating Georgia's Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta) carried House Bill 1098, which would specify that the Director of Planning should prepare Georgia's Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan and how the plan should be reported to the Governor. – **HB 1098**

Recreating the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Resolution 935, carried by Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta), would recreate the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics. – **HR 935**

Dedicating Roads and Bridges

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Resolution 1163, carried by Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta), would dedicate and rename roads, bridges and intersections across Georgia. – **HR 1163**

Urban Affairs

Transferring the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Senate Bill 134, sponsored by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta), would reassign the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. – **SB 134**

Veterans, Military and Homeland Security

Establishing a State Veterans Cemetery

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Harold Jones (D – Augusta) sponsored Senate Resolution 791 which would establish a state veterans cemetery in Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia. – **SR 791**

Extending Eligibility Requirements for Veterans' License

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

Sen. Ed Harbison (D – Columbus) carried House Bill 819 which would extend the eligibility requirements for veterans' licenses to individuals who served in the military for an ally of the United States during a war or time of conflict. – **HB 819**

Expanding the Definition of War Veteran

Effective: Upon Governor's Approval

House Bill 907, carried by Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick), would expand the eligibility for veterans qualified to reside in the Georgia State War Veterans' Home to include war veterans who have served during a period starting on January 1, 1947 and ending on June 26, 1950. – **HB 907**

Granting Professional Licenses to Military Spouses

Effective: January 1, 2021

Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White) carried House Bill 914 which would authorize the issuance of certain professional licenses to military spouses licensed to practice in another state. – **HB 914**

To view all legislation signed or vetoed by Gov. Kemp, follow this link:

<https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/legislation>

To view the full text of all bills introduced during the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, follow this link:

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/Search.aspx>

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