



## Georgia Senate Press Office Staff

**Andrew Allison**  
*Acting Director*

**Kessarin Horvath**  
*Senior Communications Associate*

**Kami Briden**  
*Communications Associate*

**Bianca Theodore**  
*2020 Broadcast Aide*

**Caleb Torres**  
*2020 Communications Intern*

**David Howell**  
*2020 Broadcast Intern*

**Keenan Rogers**  
*2020 Senate Photographer*

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


**Edited by:**

**Steve Tippins, Chief of Staff**  
**Senate President Pro Tempore Office**  
**steve.tippins@senate.ga.gov**  
**321 State Capitol Building**  
**404.656.6578**

### FOLLOW US

 fb.com/GeorgiaStateSenate

 @gasenatepress

 @gasenatepress

 GeorgiaStateSenate

# This Week in the Senate

## February 18 - 21, 2020



### Back From Budget Hearings

After taking last week to give careful consideration of budget proposals set forth by our state agencies, the Senate reconvened for four legislative days this week. This was quite a productive week for the Senate, as we passed nine bills in total, all of which will have a positive impact on Georgians throughout the state.

One of these was Senate Bill 335, sponsored by Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan). This bill would support our foster families by reducing certain training requirements for qualified foster parents, allowing juvenile cases to be prioritized and allowing for the

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services to work with additional child placing agencies to connect more children with loving homes. Each and every child deserves an opportunity to grow up in a stable and supportive home where their basic everyday needs can be met. As a state, we are aware of some of the troubling statistics surrounding the outcomes of children in foster care and this bill represents a meaningful step to ensuring a better life for these foster children.

The Senate also passed another bill that will assist our children in need. Senate Bill 345, sponsored by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta), addresses an oversight in current law that prevented a charity organization from distributing handmade sandwiches to youth. SB 345, or the “Save Our Sandwiches Bill,” establishes new guidelines that remove regulations preventing this practice while at the same time ensuring that all food distributed meets state and federal food safety guidelines. This is just another example of the legislature putting those in need at the top of our priority list and doing all we can to make certain no child in our state goes hungry.

I also had the honor of introducing the Georgia Restaurant Association this week. Our restaurant and food service community play a vital role in our state’s economy. Sometimes it can be overlooked. But with nearly 19,000 food establishments in the state employing close to 500,000 individuals, our restaurants are generating a more than \$24 million economic impact annually. They deserve recognition for being an important driver of growth in our state. It was a pleasure to welcome the distinguished members of this important group to the Senate Chamber to thank them for all they do for Georgia’s restaurants.

With 16 legislative days completed, we are inching closer to our important Crossover Day deadline (which this year will take place March 12). Crossover Day represents the final day a Senate Bill can pass the Senate and “crossover” to the House to be considered and vice versa. Next week, we are also anticipating taking up the Amended 2020 Fiscal Year budget, which recently passed out of the House. As the volume of work in our chamber continues to increase, we will keep the interests of all Georgians in mind to make our state as great as it can be.

**Senator Butch Miller**  
*President Pro Tempore, Georgia Senate*

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

### **Adjusting Pay Schedule for Constitutional Officers**

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 passed with a vote of 50 to 1. – **SB 295**

### **Columbus Day at the State Capitol**

Sen. Ed Harbison (D – Columbus) sponsored Senate Resolution 594, which recognized February 18, 2020, as Columbus Day at the state Capitol. Columbus has contributed to the state through its defense facilities, tourist attractions and economic development. – **SR 594**

### **Commending Treandos L. Thornton**

Senate Resolution 637, sponsored by Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough), honored Treandos Thornton, a second grader at Henry County Elementary School, for his hard work in organizing a regional toy and food drive and collecting over 2,000 items in the past four years. He is also the founder and president of T&N Bow Ties and Apparel, which led him to be recognized by the Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of the Top 25 Entrepreneurs Under 25. – **SR 637**

### **Recognizing the Georgia Future Farmers of America**

Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa), sponsored Senate Resolution 669, which celebrated February 18, 2020, as Future Farmers of America (FFA) Day at the state Capitol. Georgia hosts the third largest FFA chapter in the country, with over 60,000 members across 350 chapters. FFA is designed to prepare students for careers in agriculture and agribusiness, while also teaching citizenship, volunteerism, patriotism and cooperation. – **SR 669**

### **Honoring Dr. Will Parrish**

Senate Resolution 696, sponsored by Sen. Bill Heath (R – Bremen), recognized Dr. Will Parrish for his over twenty years of service as a primary care physician in west Georgia. Dr. Parrish has donated numerous hours of free medical care to the Rapha Clinic of west Georgia and currently serves on the boards of the Tanner Medical Group, the Community Foundation of West Georgia and the Pregnancy Resource Center. – **SR 696**

### **Clark Atlanta University Day at the State Capitol**

Sen. Horacena Tate (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 724, which celebrated Tuesday, February 18, 2020, as Clark Atlanta University Day at the state Capitol. Clark Atlanta University (CAU) has seen many educational and community accomplishments, including the Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development and the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development. – **SR 724**



## **Honoring Georgia Physicians**

Senate Resolution 743, sponsored by Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah), commended the President of the American Medical Association, Dr. Patrice Harris; the President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Sara Goza and the President of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Jacqueline Fincher for their service in the medical industry. These groups have a combined membership of 471,000 across multiple specialties. – **SR 743**

## **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

### **Commending the River Ridge 3 Theatre Team and the ILMSmarts Middle School Visual Arts Team**

Senate Resolution 552, sponsored by Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville), honored River Ridge Elementary School's River Ridge 3 Theater Team and ILM Academy's ILMSmarts Middle School Visual Arts Team for their 2019 wins in Augusta University's STEAMIFY Competition. The River Ridge 3 Theater Team won first place in the Elementary Theater Division and competed against 62 other elementary school teams to win the Elementary Grand Prize. The ILMSmarts Middle School Visual Arts Team took first place in the Middle School Arts Division and beat 73 other middle schools to be named the Middle School Grand Prize winner. – **SR 552**

### **Recognizing State Restaurant Day**

Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainseville), sponsored Senate Resolution 737, which celebrated February 19, 2020, as State Restaurant Day at the state Capitol. Sen. Miller was joined by the Georgia Restaurant Association, which represents the state's 19,000 restaurants. Georgia's restaurants generate \$25 billion annually and provide close to 500,000 jobs for Georgia citizens. – **SR 737**

### **Physicians Day at the State Capitol**

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) sponsored Senate Resolution 754, which recognized February 19, 2020, as Physicians Day at the state Capitol. Georgia has 19,000 licensed physicians that contribute \$29.7 billion of revenue to the state economy. In addition, Georgia physicians directly and indirectly add over 205,000 jobs in a wide variety of professions. – **SR 754**

### **Congressman Sanford Bishop Addresses the Senate**

The Senate welcomed United States Congressman Sanford Bishop (GA – 2) who saluted the members of the General Assembly for their commitment to the betterment of Georgia citizens. Rep. Bishop also spoke about his efforts to support Georgia farmers through his partnership with the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia General Assembly.

### **Senate Welcomes Congressman Jody Hice**

United States Congressman Jody Hice (GA – 10) visited the Georgia Senate to thank the members for their leadership and commitment to the state. Rep. Hice also spoke about continuing to make Georgia the number one place in which to do business and expressed his excitement for assisting the state's growth and prosperity over the





## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

### **Transferring the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust**

Senate Bill 134, sponsored by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta), reassigns 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 passed with a vote of 50 to 0. – **SB 134**

### **Valid Forms of Veteran Identification for Notary Public Officials**

Sen. Lester Jackson (D – Savannah) sponsored Senate Bill 268 which allows a valid Veterans Health Identification Card to be used as evidence of identity when presented to a notary public performing a notarial act. SB 268 passed with a vote of 54 to 0. – **SB 268**

### **Increasing Assistance to Foster Families**

Senate Bill 335, sponsored by Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan), strengthens support for foster families by allowing the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services to contract with additional child-placing agencies, adding data collection and tracking procedures, reducing certain training requirements for foster parents and granting free admission to state parks for foster families. SB 335 passed with a vote of 53 to 1. – **SB 335**

### **Food Service by Nonprofit Organizations**

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 passed with a vote of 53 to 0. – **SB 345**

### **Regulations for Landfills Expanding Near Bombing Ranges**

Senate Bill 356, sponsored by Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick), allows certain municipal solid waste landfills that were operational on July 1, 1997 to expand to within two miles of military air space utilized as bombing ranges. SB 356 passed with a vote of 51 to 0. – **SB 356**

### **Commending Georgia Forestry Units and Areas**

Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla) sponsored Senate Resolution 694 which honored the Chattahoochee/Marion Forestry Unit for being named the Georgia Forestry Commission 2019 North Georgia Unit of the Year, the Baker/Mitchell Forestry Unit for being named the 2019 South Georgia Unit of the Year, Area 4 for being named the 2019 Forest Protection Area of the Year and Region 2 for being named the 2019 Forest Management Region of the Year. The Georgia Forestry Commission oversees 24 million acres of forestry area in the state and promotes Georgia as the number one forestry state in the nation. – **SR 694**

### **Lupus Advocacy Day at the State Capitol**

Senate Resolution 725, sponsored by Sen. Nan Orrock (D – Atlanta), recognized February 20, 2020, as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state Capitol. Lupus is an autoimmune disease that causes imbalances leading to inflammation and tissue damage to organs. Over 55,000 Georgians are currently living with lupus, a number which has been declining in recent years since the implementation of the Lupus Statewide Action Plan under the Georgia Department of Community Health. – **SR 725**

### Recognizing L'Arche Atlanta

Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta), sponsored Senate Resolution 757, which celebrated February 20, 2020, as L'Arche Atlanta Day at the state Capitol. L'Arche Atlanta is a non-profit organization designed to help people with disabilities find belonging among those around them. One major initiative of L'Arche Atlanta is the Storytelling Project, which brings together individuals with disabilities from Senate districts all throughout Georgia to share their stories. – *SR 757*

### Celebrating Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Senate Resolution 762, sponsored by Sen. Lester Jackson (D – Savannah), honored February 20, 2020, as Alpha Phi Alpha Day at the state Capitol. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (APA) was founded in 1906 as a service fraternity dedicated to improving the lives of those around them. Georgia is home to many notable APA members including Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson and Ambassador Andrew Young. – *SR 762*

---

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

### Waiver and Release of Lien and Bond Rights

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 passed with a vote of 53 to 0. – *SB 315*

### Exempting Development Fees for Affordable Housing

Sen. Frank Ginn (R – Danielsville) sponsored Senate Bill 322, which allows municipalities to waive the development impact fees for affordable housing projects. In the case a municipality or county waives the fee, they will also be prohibited from raising fees on other development projects. SB 322 passed with a vote of 54 to 1. – *SB 322*





### **Celebrating the Trion High School Boys Wrestling Team**

Senate Resolution 733, sponsored by Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga), recognized the Trion High School boys wrestling team for winning the 2019-2020 Class A Boys Wrestling Dual State Championship. This was the first dual championship won by Trion High School under Coach Eric Brock, who achieved his 300th career win this season. – **SR 733**

### **Georgia Election Officials and Registrars Day at the State Capitol**

Sen. Donzella James (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 778, which celebrated February 21, 2020, as Georgia Election Officials and Registrars Day at the state Capitol. Sen. James was joined by the Voter Registrars Association of Georgia and the Georgia Election Officials Association, which were founded with the purpose of educating, assisting and communicating the Georgia Election Code to the state’s registrars and election officials. – **SR 778**



**The Georgia Senate will reconvene at 10:00 a.m. on  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24.**