

**GEORGIA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
2017 GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT
APRIL 10, 2017
[2017 – 2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION]**

Prepared by:

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HOUSE BILLS

HB 33 – Local government; individuals appointed to authorities and boards be United States citizens; require

Representatives: Brad Raffensperger (R), 50th District Darlene Taylor (R), 173rd District
Ed Rynders (R), 152nd District Bruce Williamson (R), 115th District
Buzz Brockway (R), 102nd District Tom Kirby (R), 114th District

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 80 of Title 36, Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 45, and Chapter 1 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., relating to general provisions applicable to counties, municipal corporations, and other governmental entities; general provisions regarding eligibility and qualifications for public office; and general provisions relating to state government, respectively, so as to require that individuals appointed to authorities, boards, councils, and commissions be United States citizens or nationals, lawful permanent residents, or aliens having lawful status to be present in the United States; to provide for other residency requirements; to provide an effective date and applicability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: January 12, 2017 – House Second Readers

HB 61* –Sales and use tax; certain retailers to either collect and remit or notify purchaser and state; require

Representatives: Jay Powell (R), 171st District Terry England (R), 116th District
John Meadows (R), 5th District Stacey Abrams (D), 89th District
Trey Kelley (R), 16th District

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 48-8-30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to imposition of tax, rates, and collection, so as to require certain retailers to either collect and remit sales and use taxes or provide certain notifications to each purchaser and the state; to define a term; to provide for penalties; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: February 16, 2017 - Senate Read and Referred
February 15, 2017 - House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

HB 62 – Appeal and error; judgments and rulings deemed directly appealable; revise provisions

Representatives: Jay Powell (R), 171st District Terry England (R), 116th District
John Meadows (R), 5th District Stacey Abrams (D), 89th District
Trey Kelley (R), 16th District

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to appellate practice, so as to revise provisions regarding those judgments and rulings deemed directly appealable; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state sales and use tax, so as to revise a definition; to provide for certain legal actions, injunctions, and appeals under certain circumstances; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: January 24, 2017 – House Withdrawn; Recommitted

HB 69 – Income tax; reporting of statistics related to the classification of counties into tiers for economic development purposes; provide

Representatives: Paulette Rakestraw (R), 19th District Jason Spencer (R), 180th District
Howard Maxwell (R), 17th District Ron Stephens (R), 164th District
Jay Powell (R), 171st District

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to provide for the reporting of statistics related to the classification of counties into tiers for economic development purposes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: January 25, 2017 – House Second Readers

HB 70 – Income tax; county with a certain percentage of workers who commute outside the county for work; provisions

Representatives: Paulette Rakestraw (R), 19th District Jason Spencer (R), 180th District
Howard Maxwell (R), 17th District Ron Stephens (R), 164th District
Jay Powell (R), 171st District

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to provide that a county with a certain percentage of workers who commute outside such county for work shall be reclassified one tier lower in the county tier system for economic development purposes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: January 25, 2017 – House Second Readers

HB 73 – Income tax credit; incentives to promote the revitalization of rural Georgia downtowns; provide**

Representatives: Penny Houston (R), 170th District Jason Shaw (R), 176th District
Jay Powell (R), 171st District Trey Kelley (R), 16th District
John Meadows (R), 5th District Sam Watson, (R), 172nd District

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

First Reader Summary: A BILL to amend Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxation, so as to provide tax credit incentives to promote the revitalization of vacant rural Georgia downtowns by encouraging investment, job creation, and economic growth in long-established business districts; to provide for definitions; to delineate procedures, conditions, eligibility, and limitations; to provide for powers, duties, and authority of the commissioner of community affairs, the commissioner of economic development, and the revenue commissioner; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: April 5, 2017 - House Sent to Governor
March 28, 2017 - House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub
March 28, 2017 - Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute
February 16, 2017 - House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

HB 85* – Ad valorem tax; methodology used to establish forest land fair market value; revise

Representatives: Jay Powell (R), 171st District
Terry England (R), 116th District
Tom McCall (R), 33rd District
Chuck Williams (R), 119th District
Gerald Green (R), 151st District

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 48-5-271 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to table of values for conservation use value of forest land, so as to revise the methodology used to establish forest land fair market value; to provide for a sales data bank; to provide for publication; to provide for appeals; to provide for an administrative fee; to provide for related matters; to provide for a contingent effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: March 3, 2017 - Senate Read and Referred
March 1, 2017 - House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

HB 204* – Ad valorem tax; property tax bills shall not include nontax related fees or assessments; provide

Representatives: Brett Harrell (R), 106th District
Jay Powell (R), 171st District
Terry England (R), 116th District
David Knight (R), 130th District
Penny Houston (R), 170th District
Sam Teasley (R), 37th District

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding ad valorem taxation of property, so as to provide that property tax bills shall not include any nontax related fees or assessments; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: March 22, 2017 - Senate Read Second Time
February 28, 2017 - House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

HB 205 – Mining and drilling; regulate exploration and extraction of gas and oil; provisions**

Representatives: John Meadows (R), 5th District Katie Dempsey (R), 13th District
Rick Jasperse (R), 11th District Jason Ridley (R), 6th District
Eddie Lumsden (R), 12th District Bruce Broadrick (R), 4th District

House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

Senate Committee: Regulated Industries and Utilities

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to mining and drilling, so as to regulate the exploration and extraction of gas and oil in this state; to provide for a definition; to provide for authority to create an Oil and Gas Board under certain circumstances; to require the promulgation of rules and regulations related to drilling and extraction; to amend provisions relating to drilling permits; to increase the amount of bond security for drilling operations; to provide for authority of local governments; to impose a severance tax on the extraction of oil and gas; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: March 30, 2017 - Senate Conference Committee Appointed 25th, 52nd, 17th
March 30, 2017 - House Conference Committee Appointed 5th, 36th, 106th
March 30, 2017 - House Insisted
March 30, 2017 - Senate Disagreed House Amend or Sub
March 28, 2017 - House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub As Amended
March 24, 2017 - Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute
February 23, 2017 - House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

HB 257* – Local government authorities; register with Department of Community Affairs; require

Representatives: Jan Tankersley (R), 160th District Bubber Epps (R), 144th District
Lynn Smith (R), 70th District Matt Hatchett (R), 150th District
Jay Powell (R), 171st District Ron Stephens (R), 164th District

House Committee: Governmental Affairs

Senate Committee: State and Local Governmental Operations

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local government, so as to require local government authorities to register with the Department of Community Affairs in order to be eligible for state funds; to change the deadline for local government authorities to register with said department; to prohibit authorities from incurring debt or credit obligations prior to submitting a report to said department; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: March 28, 2017 - Senate Tabled
February 21, 2017 - House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

HB 314* – Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act; enact

Representatives: Jason Shaw (R), 176th District Jay Powell (R), 171st District
Terry England (R), 116th District Robert Trammell (D), 132nd District
Sam Watson (R), 172nd District

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 1 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding insurance, so as to establish qualified low-income community investment; to provide for a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide that certain entities may earn credit against the entity's state tax liability; to disallow refundability and sale on the open market of claimed credits; to provide for certification of qualified capital investments; to provide for recapture of credit claimed under certain circumstances; to provide for a request of determination for eligibility; to provide for reporting; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: March 3, 2017 - Senate Read and Referred
March 1, 2017 - House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

HB 336 – Broadband Strategy for All of Georgia Act; enact

Representatives: Don Parsons (R), 44th District Jason Shaw (R), 176th District
Jan Tankersley (R), 160th District Greg Morris (R), 156th District
Emory Dunahoo (R), 30th District Sam Watson (R), 172nd District

House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Titles 36, 48, and 50 of the O.C.G.A., relating to local government, revenue and taxation, and state government, respectively, so as to provide for broadband deployment incentives; to provide for definitions; to establish certification of certain counties and municipal corporations as broadband ready communities; to provide for duties and responsibilities of the Department of Economic Development; to provide for the Georgia Technology Authority to develop an annual "Broadband Strategy for All of Georgia" report providing guidance for achieving enhanced broadband deployment throughout this state; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: March 30, 2017 – House Withdrawn, Recommitted

HB 371 – Local government; immunity of municipal corporations; revise provisions

Representatives: Barry Fleming (R), 121st District Wendell Willard (R), 51st District
Mack Jackson (D), 128th District Andrew Welch (R), 110th District
Jay Powell (R), 171st District

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 33 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to liability of municipal corporations for acts or omissions, so as to revise provisions relating to immunity of municipal corporations; to provide for exceptions; to provide for liability involving joint undertakings; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: February 16, 2017 – House Second Readers

HB 428 – Downtown development authorities; authorize assessments**

Representatives: Chuck Martin (R), 49th District

House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

Senate Committee: Regulated Industries and Utilities

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 42 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to downtown development authorities, so as to authorize assessments under Code Section 36-42-17; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: April 5, 2017 - House Sent to Governor
March 30, 2017 - Senate Passed/Adopted
March 3, 2017 - House Passed/Adopted

HB 499 – Georgia Personal Data Security Act; enact

Representatives: Sheri Gilligan (R), 24th District

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 34 of Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the O.C.G.A., relating to identity theft, so as to enact the "Georgia Personal Data Security Act"; to improve systems and procedures for providing and regulating notifications of data breaches affecting Georgia residents; to revise legislative findings and declarations; to modify definitions; to modify when notices of certain security breaches are required and to provide for the contents of such notices; to require certain entities to maintain certain data security procedures; to require that certain notices of a data breach be sent to certain officials of this state; to provide for enforcement by the Attorney General; to provide for civil penalties; to provide for designations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: February 28, 2017 - House Second Readers

HB 512 – Counties and municipalities; storm-water utility fees on water-neutral properties; prohibit assessment

Representatives: Regina Quick (R), 117th District
Brett Harrell (R), 106th District
Buzz Brockway (R), 102nd District
Chuck Williams (R), 119th District
Tom McCall (R), 33rd District
J. Collins (R), 68th District

House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 60 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to prohibit the assessment of storm-water utility fees on water-neutral properties; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: March 1, 2017 - House Second Readers

HB 528 – Public utilities; preferred payment plans for utility customers on fixed incomes; provide

Representatives: Karla Drenner (R), 85th District
Michele Henson (R), 86th District

House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 1 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the general provisions relative to public utilities, so as to provide for preferred payment plans for utility customers on fixed incomes; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: March 6, 2017 - House Second Readers

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

HR 58 – Municipalities; establish by local law an independent school system; authorize - CA

Representatives: Tom Taylor (R), 79th District Valencia Stovall (D), 74th District
Buzz Brockway (R), 102nd District

House Committee: Governmental Affairs

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize any municipality in the State of Georgia to establish by local law an independent school system; to provide definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

Current Status: March 30, 2017 – House Withdrawn, Recommitted

HR 158 – General Assembly; provide for dedication of revenues derived from fees or other taxes to the public purpose for which such fees or other taxes were imposed; authorize - CA

Representatives: Jay Powell (R), 171st District Brett Harrell (R), 106th District
Stacey Abrams (D), 89th District John Meadows (R), 5th District
Andrew Welch (R), 110th District Geoff Duncan (R), 26th District

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by general law for the dedication of revenues derived from fees or taxes to the public purpose for which such fees or taxes were imposed; to provide for procedures, conditions, and limitations; to provide for the redesignation of a current subparagraph of the Constitution; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

Current Status: March 30, 2017 – House Withdrawn, Recommitted

HR 560* – House Study Committee on Public Utility Payment Options for Customers in Need of Assistance; create

Representatives: Karla Drenner (R), 85th District
Gloria Frazier (R), 136th District
Derrick Jackson (R), 64th District
Stacey Abrams (D), 89th District
“Coach” Williams (R), 87th District

House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

Senate Committee:

First Reader Summary: A RESOLUTION creating the House Study Committee on Public Utility Payment Options for Customers in Need of Assistance; and for other purposes

Current Status: March 30, 2017 – House Passed/Adopted by Substitute

SENATE BILLS

SB 2* – "The FAST Act - Fairness, Accountability, Simplification, and Transparency - Empowering Our Small Businesses to Succeed"

Representatives: Mike Dugan (R), 30th District Steve Gooch (R), 51st District
David Shafer (R), 48th District Judson Hill (R), 32nd District
Bill Cowsert (R), 46th District John Wilkinson (R), 50th District

Senate Committee: Economic Development and Tourism

House Committee: Small Business Development

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 60 of Title 36, Chapter 1 of Title 43, and Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., relating to general provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, general provisions regarding professions and businesses, and state government, respectively, so as to enhance accountability and notice requirements for agency rule making so as to reduce regulatory burdens on businesses; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: March 30, 2017 - House Withdrawn, Recommitted
February 17, 2017 - Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute

SB 210 – "Georgia Government Accountability Act"; Legislative Sunset Advisory Committee; create

Representatives: Bruce Thompson (R), 14th District Steve Gooch (R), 51st District
David Shafer (R), 48th District Bill Heath (R), 31st District
Bill Cowsert (R), 46th District William T. Ligon, Jr. (R), 3rd District

Senate Committee: Government Oversight

House Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 4 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the organization of the executive branch generally, so as to establish the "Georgia Government Accountability Act"; to provide for a short title; to provide for legislative intent; to create the Legislative Sunset Advisory Committee; to authorize the committee to review and evaluate state agencies' productivity, efficiency, and responsiveness; to provide for the automatic abolition of certain state agencies contingent upon adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly declaring that the state laws applicable to such agency have been repealed, revised, or reassigned; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: February 21, 2017 – Senate Read and Referred

SB 116 – Counties and Municipal Corporations; assessment of storm-water utility fees on water-neutral properties; prohibit

Representatives: Frank Ginn (R), 47th District David Shafer (R), 48th District
Burt Jones (R), 25th District Rick Jeffares (R), 17th District
Michael Williams (R), 27st District Steve Gooch (R), 51st District

Senate Committee: Regulated Industries and Utilities

House Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 60 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to prohibit the assessment of storm-water utility fees on water-neutral properties; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: February 7, 2017 – Senate Read and Referred

SB 223 – Local Sales and Use Taxes; exception to the 2 percent limitation on local sales and use taxes; provide

Representatives: Gloria Butler (D), 55th District Brandon Beach (R), 21st District
Steve Henson (D), 41st District Gail Davenport (D), 44th District
Emanuel Jones (D), 10th District Elena Parent (D), 42nd District

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee:

First Reader Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 48-8-6 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prohibition of political subdivisions from imposing various taxes and ceiling on local sales and use taxes, so as to provide for an exception to the 2 percent limitation on local sales and use taxes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Current Status: February 22, 2017 – Senate Read and Referred

SENATE RESOLUTIONS