



FULTON COUNTY 2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Department of External Affairs – February 3, 2021



**ENSURE NECESSARY COVID-19 RESPONSE
RESOURCES**

**ENSURE AUTONOMY FOR
FULTON COUNTY AIRPORT**

**SUPPORT LONG-TERM TRANSIT FUNDING &
REGIONAL COOPERATION**

**STRENGTHEN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MODEL &
FUNDING FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION**

**CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE
JUSTICE SYSTEM**

ENSURE SECURE & ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS

**CREATE EQUITY IN APPEALS PROCESS FOR
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS**

SUPPORT CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

SIMPLIFY HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

**SUPPORT HOUSING SOLUTIONS &
AFFORDABILITY**

SUPPORT HOMEOWNER PROTECTIONS



**FULTON
COUNTY**

2021
State Legislative
Update

Public Hearings

- **HB 98 Public Hearings: Authorize by Teleconference – Rep. Lumsden R-12 (Armuchee)**: This legislation authorizes counties and cities to conduct “public hearings” by teleconference during emergency conditions. Participation by teleconference means full participation as if members of the governing authority, commission or board were physically present and members of the public must be afforded the means to participate fully in the same manner as if they were physically present.

House Hopper

Community & Economic Development

- **HB 86** (Georgia Lottery Mobile Sports Wagering Integrity Act)
 - **Rep. Stephens R-164 (Savannah)**: This bill legalizes online sports betting through the Georgia Lottery Corporation. Gamblers must be at least 21 years of age and gambling proceeds would be used to supplement improvements and enhancements for Georgia's education purposes and programs.

House Hopper

Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<u>HB 77</u> Electors May Vote in any Precinct – Rep. Bruce D-61 (Atlanta)	This bill authorizes the election superintendent of a county to permit any elector of the county to vote in any precinct for primary, general or runoff election.	
<u>HB 59</u> Instant Runoffs for Overseas Voting – Rep. Cantrell R-22 (Woodstock)	This bill amends O.C.G.A. § 21-2-284 and 21-2-286 to provide for ranked choice voting to create instant runoff elections for active duty military and overseas voters. The bill authorizes the Secretary of State to issue runoff voting absentee ballots to be enclosed with regular absentee ballots for these voters.	
<u>HB 62</u> Prohibit Counties from Accepting Grants from Private Parties – Rep. Gullet R-19 (Dallas)	This bill prohibits county boards of elections and registration from accepting any grants, gifts or funding from parties other than the federal government, state government or a Georgia city or county.	
<u>HB 64</u> Manner of handling the death of a candidate prior to a nonpartisan election – Reps. Gaines R-117 (Athens) and Wiedower R-119 (Watkinsville)	This bill provides that if a candidate on the ballot for a nonpartisan election dies before the election, their name will remain on the ballot and all votes cast for the candidate will still be counted. If the deceased candidate wins the election, the contest will be handled as a failure to fill the office.	

Taxation

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 66 Tax Abatement: County Can Contest Bond Validation Proceeding – Rep. Oliver D-82 (Decatur)	This legislation expands current law to allow all directly affected taxing authorities the ability to participate in tax abatement bond validation proceedings. Current law only allows citizens located in the jurisdiction proposing the abatement to contest the validity of the bond that implements the tax abatement.	
HB 75 Property Tax: Clarify Millage Rate Notification Requirements – Rep. Gambill R-15 (Cartersville)	This bill revises the confusing language of the public notice that must be published when a local government proposes a property tax millage rate that exceeds the "rollback rate". The rollback rate is the millage rate that would generate the same revenue as in the prior year, taking into account inflationary increases in the tax digest. HB 75 would clarify that while a proposed millage rate that is higher than the rollback rate would result in overall higher government tax revenue, an individual property owner's taxes may or may not go up. The notice language proposed in this bill would provide the property owner with clearer information on how to calculate his/her taxes. <u>Additionally, HB 75 would allow any local government that has a "floating" homestead property tax exemption to dispense with the otherwise applicable public notification of tax increase requirements.</u>	

Resolutions

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<u>HR 11</u> House Study Committee on Innovative Ways to Maximize Global Talent – Rep. Cantrell R-22 (Woodstock)	Creates the House Study Committee on Innovative Ways to Maximize Global Talent. The committee will review best practices and provide recommendations to maximize global talent, with a focus on education, training, occupational licensing, and small business development.	Referred to Small Business Development Committee



Fulton Delegation Members Chairing House Committees

- **Creative Arts & Entertainment:** Rep. Matt Dollar (R – Marietta)
- **Higher Education:** Rep. Charles “Chuck” Martin (R – Alpharetta)
- **Education Appropriations Subcommittee:** Rep. Todd Jones (R - South Forsyth)

Adjournment Calendar –

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA