



# FULTON COUNTY 2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Department of External Affairs – February 17, 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



# COVID-19

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">HB 112</a> COVID-19 Liability: Extend Business and Government Immunity until 2022 – Rep. Kelley R-16 (Cedartown)</b>	This bill extends protections for limited liability claims passed in the 2020 "Georgia Pandemic Business Safety Act" for one year through July 14, 2022. The Act provides that businesses, health care providers, and local governments cannot be sued for the transmission, infection, exposure or potential exposure of COVID-19 unless the local government, business, or other entity was grossly negligent, engaged in willful and wanton misconduct, or recklessly or intentionally inflicted harm.	House Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System Favorably Reported
<b><a href="#">SB 46</a> Authorize Emergency Medical Technicians and Cardiac Technicians to Administer Vaccines – Sen. Burke R-11 (Bainbridge)</b>	This bill authorizes Emergency Medical Technicians and Cardiac Technicians to administer vaccines in public health emergencies. The bill also requires reporting to the Department of Public health regarding vaccinations.	Referred to Health and Human Services Committee

# Ensure Autonomy for Fulton County Airport

- Rep. Chuck Martin R-49 (Alpharetta) will (re)introduce a bill that would prohibit a city with 85 square miles within its corporate limits from annexing a county owned airport unless the county adopts a resolution approving the annexation.
- Rep. Bruce D-61 (Atlanta) will (re)introduce a bill that changes the corporate boundaries of the City of South Fulton to include the Fulton Industrial District except the Fulton County Executive Airport - Charlie Brown Field and contiguous Fulton owned properties.

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

- The \$500K budget line for Fulton County's Permanent Supportive Housing initiative is included for funding in the proposed budget for FY 2022.

# Behavioral Health

- **HB 239** Department of Behavioral Health conduct or coordinate all audits of behavioral health providers – **Rep. Hutchinson D-107 (Snellville)**: This bill provides that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities conduct or directly coordinate all audits of behavioral health providers to prevent duplication with other agencies.

*Referred to House Health & Human Services Committee*

# Human Trafficking

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">HB 177</a> Torts; provide a cause of action against perpetrators for victims of human trafficking – Rep. Bonner R-72 (Fayetteville)</b>	<p>This bill allows survivors of human trafficking to recover damages and reasonable attorney's fees in a court of law against traffickers.</p> <p>Companion bill: <b><a href="#">SB 33</a> Torts; cause of action against perpetrators for victims of human trafficking – Sen. Dixon R-45 (Buford); Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee</b></p>	Referred to Judiciary Committee
<b><a href="#">HB 178</a> Domestic relations; victims of human trafficking may petition for name change under seal – Rep. Bonner R-72 (Fayetteville)</b>	<p>This bill provides that victims of human trafficking may petition for name change under seal.</p> <p>Companion bill: <b><a href="#">SB 34</a> Domestic Relations; name change; victims of human trafficking may petition – Sen. Dixon R-45 (Buford); Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee</b></p>	Referred to Judiciary Committee

# Cybersecurity

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">HB 134</a> Cybersecurity: Allow Discussion in Executive Session and Exempt from Open Records – Rep. Anderson R-10 (Cornelia)</b>	This legislation allows local governments to discuss matters related to cybersecurity services in executive session—exempting the discussion from open meeting requirements. Additionally, this bill exempts certain cybersecurity documents from open records requirements.	House Judiciary Committee Favorably Reported
<b><a href="#">HB 156</a> Locals Must Report Cyber Attacks, Executive Session and Open Records – Rep. Parsons R-44 (Marietta)</b>	This legislation requires counties and cities to report certain cyber-attack, data breach or malware incidents to the state director of emergency management and homeland security. Incidents are to be reported if they create a life-safety event, substantially impact the security of data and information systems, or affect critical systems, equipment or service delivery. The bill also authorizes local government to discuss matters related to cybersecurity services in executive session and exempts certain cybersecurity documents from open records.	Referred to Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee

# Protect Air Quality

- **HB 3 Permit Requirements for Facilities that Emit Ethylene Oxide – Rep. Allen D-40 (Smyrna)** This bill establishes additional conditions to permits for facilities that emit ethylene oxide that includes allowing Georgia Environmental Protection Divisions (GA EPD) to install equipment that can detect and monitor ethylene oxide emissions from each exhaust point at the facility. HB 3 allows GA EPD to continuously monitor direct emissions of ethylene oxide and retain records of the daily release of ethylene oxide from each exhaust point. Such reports would be made publicly available on GA EPD's website twice a year. Lastly, each facility would be required to create an ambient air monitoring plan that would include a quarterly air sampling with the results submitted to the local government where facility is located.

*On Second Read - Natural Resources & Environment Committee*



# Local Government Requirements

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">HB 79</a> Fireworks; Counties and Cities Would Regulate Use, Dates and Times – Rep. Allen D-40 (Smyrna)</b>	This bill authorizes counties and cities to determine whether or not fireworks may be used within their jurisdiction and to set the dates and times of said usage. Returns issue to home rule.	Referred to Regulated Industries Committee
<b><a href="#">HB 187</a> Local government; provide compilation of all local ordinances; require authorities – Rep. Lim D-99 (Norcross)</b>	This bill requires county and municipal governing authorities to provide a compilation of all local ordinances, property maintenance codes, codes of technical regulations, and associated fines and penalties.	Referred to Governmental Affairs Committee
<b><a href="#">SB 32</a> Disclosure of Public Employees' Records – Sen. Brass R-38 (Newnan)</b>	This legislation adds unlisted and mobile telephone numbers among the records of public employees that do not have to be disclosed.	Referred to Judiciary Committee

# Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<a href="#"><u>HB 59</u></a> <b>Instant Runoffs for Overseas Voting – Rep. Cantrell R-22 (Woodstock)</b>	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.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
<a href="#"><u>HB 62</u></a> <b>Prohibit Counties from Accepting Grants from Private Parties – Rep. Gullet R-19 (Dallas)</b>	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.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
<a href="#"><u>HB 64</u></a> <b>Manner of handling the death of a candidate prior to a nonpartisan election – Reps. Gaines R-117 (Athens) and Wiedower R-119 (Watkinsville)</b>	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.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
<a href="#"><u>HB 65</u></a> <b>Elections for Consolidated Governments – Rep. Gaines R-117 (Athens)</b>	This bill provides that the General Assembly may, by local Act, approve nonpartisan elections for the boards of education in consolidated governments as well as the offices of the consolidated government. Elections could be held in conjunction with the general election in even-numbered years without a prior nonpartisan primary.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity

# Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">HB 77</a> Electors May Vote in any Precinct – Rep. Bruce D-61 (Atlanta)</b>	An elections superintendent may permit any voter of the county to vote in any precinct of the county. NOTE: The bill would require funding additional elections technology for counties choosing to implement; voting machines would not utilize internet system.	On Second Read - Special Committee on Election Integrity
<b><a href="#">HB 101</a> Elections; restrictions of voting rights for judicially incompetent persons – Rep. McLaurin D-51 (Sandy Springs)</b>	This bill allows persons convicted of moral turpitude to vote before completion of their sentence.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
<b><a href="#">HB 121</a> Elections; certain electors list maintenance activities; eliminate – Rep. Nguyen D-89 (Atlanta)</b>	This bill prohibits removing those who have had no contact with the elections process in five years from being removed from the voting rolls. No contact means those who have not filed an updated voter registration card, have not filed a change of name or address, have not signed a petition, have not signed a voter's certificate, have not submitted an absentee ballot application or voted by absentee.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
<b><a href="#">HB 132</a> Elections; written operating procedures for elections and voter registration activities in each county – Rep. Mainor D-56 (Atlanta)</b>	This bill requires the State Election Board to require each county election superintendent and board of registrars to annually develop and adhere to numerous written operating procedures for the conduct of elections and voter registration. If the State Board does not approve of local procedures, they notify the county of its deficiencies, then the county has 30 days to make corrections. Each county must report quarterly on numerous operational procedures. Lastly, each county must create a legislative oversight advisory board, with members appointed by legislators serving the respective county.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity

# Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">HB 227</a> Elections; ID Required for Absentee Ballot Application – Rep. Hawkins R-27 (Gainesville)</b>	This bill requires electors to either submit their date of birth and driver’s license number, their personal identification card number or a photocopy of one of form of acceptable voting identification with their absentee ballot application.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
<b><a href="#">HB 228</a> Elections; Revise ID Requirements for Noncitizens – Rep. Byrd R-20 (Woodstock)</b>	This bill provides that a driver’s license or ID card issued to a noncitizen is not an acceptable form of ID to vote in Georgia. Going forward, driver’s licenses issued to noncitizens shall be clearly marked “BEARER NOT A U.S. CITIZEN – NOT VOTER ID’.” Lastly, after July 1, 2021, the DMV will be required to participate in the E-Verify (RIDE) program.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
<b><a href="#">HB 250</a> Elections; Notification of Change for Early Voting Locations – Rep. Ehrhart R-36 (Marietta)</b>	Bill prohibits counties from changing early voting locations within the 60-day period before early voting begins for primaries, general and runoff elections; or within 30 days before any special primary, special election or special election runoff. This requirement can be waived during an emergency or other event that renders the early voting location unavailable. If an emergency or other event occurs within 10 days of the start of early voting, the county must publish notice of the proposed change once a week, for two weeks, in the legal organ and post a notice of the change at the previous early voting location.	Referred to the House Special Committee on Election Integrity
<b><a href="#">HB 270</a> – Elections; mailing and issuance of absentee ballots –Rep. Fleming 121st District • R-121 (Harlem)</b>	Bill moves county deadline to mail out absentee ballots from the final Friday before an election to second Friday before an election. For voters, this means that absentee ballot applications must be received 10 days before an election. This bill is a legislative priority of the ACCG to allow county election offices and voters time for processing and returning ballots before the Election Day deadline.	House Special Committee on Elections Integrity passed by Substitute

# Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<a href="#"><u>SB 29</u></a> Elections; Require Photocopy of ID for Absentee Ballot – Sen. Anavitarte R-31	This legislation requires electors submit a photocopy of their ID when they apply for an absentee ballot as well as when they submit the absentee ballot (within the outer envelope). Any ID that suffices to vote in person will work for this purpose. If the elector fails to do so, the registrar shall advise the elector promptly and the elector shall be allowed to correct the problem.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<a href="#"><u>SB 35</u></a> Elections: Poll Workers May Serve Outside the County Where they Live or Work – Sen. Parent D-42 (Atlanta)	This bill removes the current law requirement that poll workers must live or work in the county in which they serve.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<a href="#"><u>SB 37</u></a> Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote – Sen. Au D-48	This legislation would have Georgia enact the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote. States would then apportion their presidential electors according to popular vote.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<a href="#"><u>SB 38</u></a> Elections; Allow Electors to Request Absentee Ballots for all Future Elections – Sen. Parent D-42 (Atlanta)	This legislation authorizes any elector to request and receive absentee ballots for all future elections (regularly scheduled primaries, elections and runoffs) in which they are eligible to vote. Electors may be removed if they are moved to the inactive list but can return via a confirmation notice, and the elector may opt out of receiving future absentee ballots.	Referred to Ethics Committee



# Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<a href="#"><u>SB 39</u></a> Elections; Allow Convicted Felons (Controlled Substances) to Vote before Completion of Sentence – Sen. Jones II D-22 (Augusta)	This bill authorizes those who have been convicted of a felony involving controlled substances to register and vote in Georgia before their sentence is complete.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<a href="#"><u>SB 40</u></a> Elections; Begin Tabulating Absentee Ballots Earlier – Sen. Jordan D-6 (Atlanta)	This bill authorizes local election offices to begin tabulating absentee ballots processing and scanning absentee ballots on the second Monday prior to an election.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<a href="#"><u>SB 62</u></a> Elections; name and designation of the precinct appears on every ballot – Sen. Tippins R-37 (Marietta)	This bill requires that the specific name and designation of the precinct be printed on all primary, general, nonpartisan, and run-off election ballots. Every ballot used in primaries and general elections must be embedded a holographic security device or seal to prevent voter fraud (this seal cannot be capable of identifying the elector). County registrars must keep track of who has been issued absentee ballots as well as the date sent, whether such ballot has been returned, whether the ballot has been accepted and the current status of the ballot. Upon the conclusion of counting, absentee ballots shall be sorted and stored by precinct in sealed containers. The chain of custody for such containers shall be maintained until such ballots can be legally disposed.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<a href="#"><u>SB 67</u></a> Elections; Submission of Absentee Ballot Application ID – Sen. Walkers III R-20	This bill requires voters to submit their date of birth and Georgia driver’s license number, personal identification card number or a photocopy of one of the acceptable voter IDs with their absentee ballot application. The Secretary of State is also authorized to establish a web portal for electors with a Georgia driver’s license or a personal ID to submit absentee ballot requests in this bill.	Referred to Ethics Committee

# Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">SB 68</a> Elections; Prohibit Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)</b>	This bill prohibits counties from using absentee ballot drop boxes for the delivery of completed absentee ballots. Ballots must be mailed or delivered personally to the local election office.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<b><a href="#">SB 69</a> Elections; End Automatic Voter Registration – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)</b>	This bill requires people to “affirmatively and specifically” indicate the desire to register to vote, then sign the voter registration application, when going to the DMV to obtain, renew or change their driver’s license information .	Referred to Ethics Committee
<b><a href="#">SB 70</a> Elections; Prohibits new Georgia residents from voting in runoffs – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)</b>	This bill provides that a person who votes in a general election for the office of United States Representative or United States Senator in another state and subsequently moves to Georgia shall be ineligible to vote in a runoff for any such offices in this state in the same election cycle.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<b><a href="#">SB 71</a> Elections; Requires an excuse to vote absentee – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)</b>	This bill eliminates no-excuse absentee voting by mail in Georgia. In order to vote absentee by mail, electors must be required to be absent from their precinct; have or must care for someone who has a physical disability; have a religious holiday on election day; have to work for the protection of the health, life, or safety of the public during the entire time of voting (advance voting period or on election day); or are 75 years of age or older.	Referred to Ethics Committee

# Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">SB 72</a> Elections; Mandates monthly updates to election officials of voters who have died – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)</b>	This bill requires county registrars to obtain monthly lists from the coroner, judge of the probate court, and funeral homes in the county identifying information about persons who died in the county during the previous month in order remove these names from the list of electors.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<b><a href="#">SB 73</a> Elections; Limits on Absentee Ballot Application Distribution – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)</b>	This bill limits the distribution of absentee ballot applications to the Secretary of State, an election superintendent, a board of registrars, or a candidate or a candidate's campaign committee. Any groups legally authorized to distribute absentee ballot forms or applications must prominently disclose their name on the forms/applications.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<b><a href="#">SB 74</a> Elections; Expands Poll Watcher Access Expansion – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)</b>	This bill provides access for poll watchers to all areas in tabulating centers to observe the vote counting process. Restrictions of movement and activities of poll watchers, in order to provide for the security of the ballots and to prevent tabulating interference, by the election superintendent is allowed but should be minimal.	Referred to Ethics Committee

# Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">SB 79</a> Registration of Voters; felonies involving moral turpitude; shall not register to, remain registered to, or vote – Sen. Jones II D-22 (Augusta)</b>	This bill authorizes those convicted of a list of felonies involving moral turpitude offenses to vote if they have finished their incarceration and are on parole, probation, are participating in various drug abuse treatment or education programs.	Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee
<b><a href="#">SB 89</a> Elections and Primaries; chief elections assistance officer; qualifications, appointment, supervision, and duties Senator Butch Miller Dist. R-49 (Gainesville)</b>	Bill establishes the position of chief elections assistance officer within the Secretary of State's Office who will support and assist county election superintendents, including their training; investigate the causes of low performance and lack of adherence to election laws and procedures; offer support services to improve performance. Within 90 days of the evaluation, if the county superintendent is still in violation of the criteria – as determined by the State Election Board – that superintendent may be suspended (based on determination during a Board hearing) and replaced by the Board. The replacement is to be paid by the county.	Senate Read and Referred to Ethics Committee

# CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<a href="#"><u>HB 15</u></a> <b>Preventing Tragedies Between Police and Communities Act – Rep. Scott D-76 (Rex)</b>	This bill requires each officer to receive training on various topics centered around de-escalation techniques and crisis intervention training. The bill also requires that each law enforcement unit provides ongoing education on these topics on an annual basis beginning January 1, 2022.	Referred to Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee
<a href="#"><u>HB 19</u></a> <b>Due Process in Civil Forfeiture Act; enact – Rep. Scott D-76 (Rex)</b>	This bill changes the burden of proof in civil forfeiture actions to clear and convincing evidence, the current standard is a preponderance of the evidence. The bill also requires that a public defender be assigned in civil asset forfeitures actions.	Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
<a href="#"><u>HB 20</u></a> <b>Elimination of Immunity for Coroners and Medical Examiners in Certain Death Investigations – Rep. Scott D-76 (Rex)</b>	This bill eliminates sovereign immunity for medical examiners and coroners in death investigations involving law enforcement. The bill defines heirs and provides for civil actions against a coroner who misrepresents facts or tampers with evidence.	Referred to Judiciary Committee
<a href="#"><u>HB 69</u></a> <b>Elimination of Sovereign Immunity for State Officers and Local Law Enforcement – Rep. Kendrick D-93 (Lithonia)</b>	This bill revises exceptions to state liability for tort claims for state officers and local law enforcement who have allegedly acted grossly negligent or to have committed a violation of law within the scope of his or her duties.	Referred to Judiciary Committee



# CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">HB 110</a> Allow Anyone who qualifies for a Weapons Carry License to Carry a Weapon – Rep. Clark R-147 (Warner Robins)</b>	This bill allows any person who qualifies for a weapon carry license may lawfully carry a weapon without a permit. The bill states no person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a handgun may have or carry such weapon at parks, historic sites, and recreational areas.	Referred to Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee
<b><a href="#">HB 145</a> Standards for Use of Force by Law Enforcement – Rep. Boddie D-62 (East Point)</b>	This bill sets forth new standards for the use of force by law enforcement. Law enforcement shall apply non-violent means before the use of force. When physical force is used law enforcement shall: Not use deadly physical force to apprehend a person who is suspected of only a misdemeanor or nonviolent felony offense; Use only a degree of force consistent with the minimization of injury to others; Ensure that assistance and medical aid are rendered to any injured or affected persons as soon as practicable; and Ensure that any identified relatives or next of kin of persons who have sustained serious bodily injury or death are notified as soon as practicable; Identify themselves prior to the use of physical force; Not use a chokehold.	Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

# CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">SB 10</a> "Jaye Mize Law"; promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags; provide for an offense – Sen. Jones D-10 (Decatur)</b>	This bill provides penalties for drag racing to those who are knowingly present at a street racing event as well as those who promote and advertise events. Drivers would be fined a minimum of \$2,500 and involved vehicles will be impounded and stored at the operator's risk and expense until the adjudication of the offense. The bill would also require high-performance license plates for cars made with or modified to have 650 horsepower or more.	Referred to Judiciary Committee
<b><a href="#">SB 77</a> Controlled Substances; possession of certain quantities of marijuana constitutes a misdemeanor – Sen. Jones II D-22 (Augusta)</b>	This bill changes misdemeanor charges for possession of marijuana from one ounce or less two ounces or less. If the amount of possession is one-half ounce or less, the offender would be punished by a fine not to exceed \$300.00. If the amount is at least one-half ounce but not more than two ounces, he or she can be punished by imprisonment for a period not to exceed 12 months or a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00, or both, or community service not to exceed 12 months.	Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee

# District Attorney and Probate Court

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<a href="#"><u>HB 97</u></a> <b>Require Oath for Chief Probate Court Clerks – Rep. Leverett R-33 (Elberton)</b>	This legislation requires probate judges who appoint a chief clerk in place of serving as clerk themselves, to administer an oath to the person appointed as a clerk. Currently, probate judges also serve as chief clerk of the probate court by operation of law.	Referred to Judiciary Committee
<a href="#"><u>HB 140</u></a> <b>District Attorney May Request Change of Venue – Rep. Boddie D-62 (East Point)</b>	This bill allows the District Attorney (DA) to request a change of venue if the previous DA has been removed or the local government has released information that may taint the jury.	Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
<a href="#"><u>HB 143</u></a> <b>Creation of District Attorneys Oversight Commission – Rep. Boddie D-62 (East Point)</b>	This bill creates the District Attorney Oversight Commission to investigate complaints and alleged wrongdoing by an elected District Attorney and make recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding disciplinary action or removal from office.	Referred to Judiciary Committee

# Public Property Tax Exemption

- **HB 151 Property Tax Exemptions; Public Property – Rep. Burnough D-77 (Riverdale):** This bill would remove one of the qualifications for property tax exemption for property owned by a government outside of that government's borders. Specifically, this bill would remove the existing property tax exemption for extra-territorial property that is at least 25 percent developed and contains facilities actively used for governmental purposes. Other property tax exemptions for extra-territorial property would be unaffected (parcels of 300 acres or less, watershed properties, and city-owned property in a county within which at least part of the city's municipal boundaries lie).
  - The target of this bill is Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, which is owned by the City of Atlanta but much of which lies within Clayton County.

*Referred to Ways & Means Committee*

# Taxation

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">HB 63</a> Title Ad Valorem Tax: Changing Taxable Value for Leased Vehicles – Rep. Blackmon R-146 (Bonaire)</b>	This bill alters the method by which vehicles leased for private purposes are taxed for title ad valorem tax (TAVT) purposes. Under current law, the TAVT tax rate is applied to the total of all "base payments" under the lease, plus any down payment. HB 63 would deduct from that taxable base the interest component, plus any finance charges, that are included in the base payments and/or down payment. HB 63 would also clarify existing law regarding the taxable value of used vehicles that are purchased under a seller-financed arrangement.	Referred to Ways & Means Committee
<b><a href="#">HB 66</a> Tax Abatement: County Can Contest Bond Validation Proceeding – Rep. Oliver D-82 (Decatur)</b>	This bill 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.	Referred to Governmental Affairs Comm.
<b><a href="#">HB 75</a> Property Tax: Clarify Millage Rate Notification Requirements – Rep. Gambill R-15 (Cartersville)</b>	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>	Referred to Ways & Means Committee



# Taxation

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b>HB 317 Excise tax; revise definition of innkeeper to include marketplace facilitators; provisions – Rep. Stephens, R-164 (Savannah)</b>	On and after July 1, 2021, an excise tax of \$5.00 per night shall be levied upon the rental or lease of any room, lodging, or accommodation by an innkeeper. Bill extends Hotel-Motel Tax to Air B & B and similar shelter rentals. Extended stay rentals shall be exempt from the tax levied by this Code section. Revenues will continue to be used exclusively for transportation purposes in this state with up to 10 percent of the fees collected to be appropriated for transit projects.	House Hopper

# Taxation

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<b><a href="#">SB 6</a> "Tax Credit Return on Investment Act of 2021" – Sen. Albers R-56 (Roswell)</b>	This bill allows for analysis of the costs and benefits from state laws that provide tax exemptions, credits, deductions, and abatements. Each year, the chairs of the House Ways & Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee could request an economic analysis of up to <u>five</u> existing or proposed tax expenditure laws by contract with one or more independent auditors. The analysis would consider the costs to the state from the law, along with any public benefits flowing from that law.	Senate Passed (51-0); Referred to House Ways & Means
<b><a href="#">SB 41</a> Tax Commissioners Retirement Fund of Georgia – Senators Hufstetler R-57 (Rome) and Jackson D-2 (Savannah)</b>	This bill creates a new retirement system for tax commissioners not covered under previous plan. The retirement fund would be administered by a board consisting of tax commissioners and Governor's appointees. The retirement fund would be funded by: 1) Monthly contributions of \$105 from each tax commissioner; 2) A new 50-cent fee on all delinquent property tax bills (not including property tax on motor vehicles); and 3) 20% of the 1% administration fee that is currently paid to the county general fund on collections of Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT). As a retirement bill, SB 41 would be subject to an actuarial review in 2021 and only eligible for adoption in 2022.	Referred to Retirement Committee
<b><a href="#">SB 57</a> Tax Exemptions and Credits: Economic Analysis – Sen. Jordan D-6 (Atlanta)</b>	This bill authorizes the chairperson of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee to each request up to <u>three</u> economic analyses that shall be completed by the <u>state auditor</u> on or before December 1 of the year in which such analysis was requested.	Referred to Senate Finance Committee

# Community & Economic Development

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<a href="#"><u>HB 86</u></a> <b>Georgia Lottery Mobile Sports Wagering Integrity Act – Rep. Stephens R-164 (Savannah)</b>	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 Economic Development & Tourism Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute
<a href="#"><u>HB 148</u></a> <b>Development Authorities Board of Directors Appointment and Removal – Rep. Schofield D-60 (Atlanta)</b>	This bill clarifies who can be appointed to a development authority's board of directors to include tax paying residents and business owners who pay ad valorem taxes on real or personal property within the county or municipal corporation for which the authority is created. The bill also authorizes a process for the local governing authority to remove development authority appointees.	Referred to Governmental Affairs Committee
<a href="#"><u>SB 30</u></a> <b>"Rural Georgia Jobs and Growth Act" – Senators Beach R-21 (Alpharetta) and Harbison D-15 (Columbus)</b>	The “Rural Jobs and Growth Act” authorizes pari-mutuel horse racing and gambling in Georgia. It establishes the Georgia Horse Racing Commission to regulate this industry.	Referred to Regulated Industries Committee

# Resolutions: Constitutional Amendments

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<a href="#"><u>HR 28</u></a> <b>Constitutional Amendment; Allow Those Convicted of Moral Turpitude to Vote Before Completion of Sentence – Rep. McLaurin D-51 (Sandy Springs)</b>	This proposed constitutional amendment authorizes those who have been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude to register and vote in Georgia before their sentence is complete.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
<a href="#"><u>HR 30</u></a> <b>Constitutional Amendment; Authorize Casino Gambling in Georgia – Rep. Stephens R-164 (Savannah)</b>	This proposed constitutional amendment legalizes limited casino gambling in Georgia. Proceeds would be used for educational programs and purposes, administering and regulating the casino gambling, and programs for the prevention and treatment of compulsive and addictive gambling.	Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Committee
<a href="#"><u>SR 26</u></a> <b>Constitutional Amendment; Allowing State to Issue Bonds for Airport Projects – Sen. Harper R-7 (Ocilla)</b>	This proposed constitutional amendment would allow the state to incur general obligation debt in order to make loans or grants to local governments and local authorities that own airports for the acquisition, construction, development, extension, enlargement, or improvement of airports.	Referred to Appropriations Committee
<a href="#"><u>SR 53</u></a> <b>Constitutional Amendment; Pari-Mutuel Betting; horse racing; on the premises of racetrack by or on behalf of the state – Senators Beach R-21 (Alpharetta) and Harbison D-15 (Columbus)</b>	This proposed constitutional amendment legalizes pari-mutuel betting on horse racing in Georgia. No off-track or off-site betting is authorized. State proceeds would be used to administer and regulate the industry, fund educational programs and purposes, and fund rural health care services and insurance coverage.	Referred to Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee