



FULTON COUNTY 2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Department of External Affairs – February 17, 2021 Item #: 21-0142



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 |
|--|---|---|
| HB 112 COVID-19 Liability: Extend Business and Government Immunity until 2022 – Rep. Kelley R-16 (Cedartown) | <p>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.</p> | House Passed (99-68); Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee |
| HB 290 Right to Visit Act – Representatives Setzler R-35 (Acworth) | <p>This bill prohibits a hospital or nursing home from instituting any policy that limits patients' abilities to be visited by designated family members or friends during any hospitalization or treatment that lasts for a period exceeding 24 hours, including during a declared public health emergency. Hospitals and nursing homes shall not be prevented from imposing reasonable safety requirements relating to the physical presence of such designated family members or friends in the hospital or nursing home so long as at least two such designated family members or friends are authorized for visitation and such visitation is authorized for no less than two hours per day.</p> | Referred to House Human Relations & Aging Committee |
| SB 46 Authorize Emergency Medical Technicians and Cardiac Technicians to Administer Vaccines – Sen. Burke R-11 (Bainbridge) | <p>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.</p> | Senate Health and Human Services Committee Favorably Reported |

FULTON COUNTY EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|--|---|--|
| HB 445 - City of South Fulton; change corporate boundaries – Rep. Bruce D-61 (Atlanta) | This bill 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. | On Second Read - House Intergovernmental Coordination Committee |
| HB 459 Local government; prohibit annexations of county operated airport property – Rep. Martin R-49 (Alpharetta) | This bill prohibits a municipality that contains more than 85 square miles within its corporate limits from annexing any territory on which a public airport operated by a county is located unless the governing authority of such county adopts a resolution approving such annexation within 90 days prior to the governing authority of the municipality holding a vote on such annexation. | Referred to House Governmental Affairs Committee |
| SR 84 Joint Study Committee: Airport Infrastructure and Improvements – Sen. Harper R-7 (Ocilla) | This resolution creates the Joint Study Committee on Airport Infrastructure and Improvements that will study airport funding and policies in order to support the growth of the aviation industry. | Referred to Senate Rules Committee |

HOMEOWNER PROTECTIONS

- **HR 117 House Study Committee on Homeowners' Associations, Condominium Owners' Associations, and Property Owners in Community Associations – Rep. Boddie D-62 (East Point)**: This resolution creates the five member House Study Committee on Homeowners' Associations, Condominium Owners' Associations, and Property Owners in Community Associations. This committee will study how various communities could be better organized to implement requirements and procedures for turnover and transition from declarants, developers, or other establishing entities to property owners comprising the community association.

On Second Read – House Special Rules Committee

Human Trafficking

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|--|---|----------------------|
| SB 33 Torts; cause of action against perpetrators for victims of human trafficking – Sen. Dixon R-45 (Buford) | <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><i>Companion bill: HB 177 Torts; provide a cause of action against perpetrators for victims of human trafficking – Rep. Bonner R-72 (Fayetteville); On Second Read – House Judiciary Committee</i></p> | Senate Passed (50-0) |
| SB 34 Domestic Relations; name change; victims of human trafficking may petition – Sen. Dixon R-45 (Buford) | <p>This bill allows privacy for name changes (non-disclosure waiver) for persons formerly trafficked.</p> <p><i>Companion bill: HB 178 Domestic relations; victims of human trafficking may petition for name change under seal – Rep. Bonner R-72 (Fayetteville); On Second Read – House Judiciary Committee</i></p> | Senate Passed (50-0) |

Public Health

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|--|---|---|
| HB 3 Permit Requirements for Facilities that Emit Ethylene Oxide – Rep. Allen D-40 (Smyrna) | <p>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.</p> <p><i>Companion Bill: SB 180 Ethylene Oxide; certain conditions for permits – Sen. Jordan D-6 (Atlanta); Referred to Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee</i></p> | On Second Read – House Natural Resources & Environment Committee |
| HB 215 Expand use of telehealth options in the Medicaid program – Rep. Robichaux D-48 (Roswell) | <p>This legislation enables the permanent continuation of the use of telehealth services deployed during the pandemic.</p> | Referred to House Health & Human Services Committee |
| HB 239 Department of Behavioral Health conduct or coordinate all audits of behavioral health providers – Rep. Hutchinson D-107 (Snellville) | <p>This bill provides that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities conduct or coordinate all audits of behavioral health providers to prevent duplication with other agencies.</p> | Referred to House Health & Human Services Committee |

Elections Policy Priorities

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|---|---|--|
| HB 62 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. | On Second Read - Special Committee on Election Integrity |
| HB 77 Electors May Vote in any Precinct – Rep. Bruce D-61 (Atlanta) | 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 |
| HB 113 Elections; same day registration and voting – Rep. Alexander D-66 (Hiram) | <p>This bill allows people to register to vote in person at their precinct polling place on election day for primary and general elections, or at the registrar's office during the early voting period.</p> <p><i>Companion Bill: SB 149 Primaries and Elections; same day registration and voting – Sen. Butler D- 55 (Stone Mountain); Referred to Senate Ethics Committee</i></p> | On Second Read - Special Committee on Election Integrity |

Elections Policy Priorities

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|--|---|--|
| <u>HB 250</u> Elections; Notification of Change for Early Voting Locations – Rep. Ehrhart R-36 (Marietta) | <p>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.</p> | On Second Read - Special Committee on Election Integrity |
| <u>HB 270</u> – Elections; mailing and issuance of absentee ballots – Rep. Fleming R-121 (Harlem) | <p>This bill states absentee ballot (by mail) applications must be received by the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the second Friday before an election. Counties must mail an approved absentee ballot to the voter within three days of receiving the application but cannot issue or mail out any absentee ballots after the Wednesday before the election.</p> | Special Committee on Election Integrity Favorably Reported by Substitute |
| <u>SB 26</u> Elections; Mandate absentee ballot drop boxes at every advance voting location – Sen. Rahman D-5 (Lawrenceville) | <p>This bill requires counties to employ absentee ballot drop boxes at each early voting location. These drop box locations must open beginning 49 days prior to any primary or general election, and at the start of early voting for runoffs. Counties must post notice of each drop box location on the home page of their election web site no later than the day the drop boxes are deployed. Drop boxes must have adequate lighting and be monitored by video recordings – with the recordings being maintained by the county registrar for at least 30 days following the certification of the election. Recordings must be made available to the secretary of state or the public free of charge. There are several other requirements to maintain the security of the drop boxes as well as how ballots are collected.</p> | Referred to Senate Ethics Committee |

Elections Policy Priorities

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <u>SB 68</u> Elections; Prohibit Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga) | 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 Senate Ethics Committee |
| <u>SB 89</u> Elections; Low Performing Election Superintendents Can be removed by State – Sen. Miller R-49 (Gainesville) | 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 determined by the State Election Board that superintendent may be suspended and replaced by the Board. The replacement is to be paid by the county. | Referred to Senate Ethics Committee |
| <u>SB 93</u> Elections; Limit use of mobile polling facilities – Sen. Robertson R-29 (Cataula) | This bill limits the use of portable and movable polling facilities only to replace an existing polling place when the existing polling place has been deemed to be unsafe for human occupation by a licensed commercial building inspector employed or contracted by the county or municipality or has suffered a failure of utility services that provide water or electricity. The superior court judge must approve this deployment. | Referred to Senate Ethics Committee |
| <u>SB 141</u> Elections; Immediate Counting and Tabulation of Ballots After the Close of the Polls – Sen. Anavitarte R-31 | This bill requires county election superintendents to post the total number of certified absentee ballots that were received upon the close of the polls on Election Day. Those ballots must then immediately be counted and tabulated until all such ballots have been tabulated without breaks. Additional immediate tabulation requires for precinct poll officers and elections superintendents are included in the bill. | Referred to Senate Ethics Committee |

Elections

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|--|---|---|
| HB 267 Elections; persons who register to vote by mail shall vote for the first time in person – Rep. Thomas R-21 (Holly Springs) | <p>This bill requires those who register to vote by mail in Georgia to first vote in person unless they are entitled to vote under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, are age 65 or older, or are physically disabled.</p> | Referred to Special Committee on Election Integrity |
| HB 406 Elections; audits of certain primaries and elections – Rep. Wade R-9 (Dawsonville) | <p>This bill requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to audit Georgia's 20 most populated counties and 20 other counties selected randomly following every primary, primary runoff, general election and general election runoff for congressional and statewide contests. Audits shall examine all absentee ballot applications for completeness and accuracy in verifying the identity of the voter and compare the number of approved applications to the number of absentee ballots issued. All audits must be conducted within 180 days of the election; however, audits for any race that is decided within 2 percent of votes cast shall begin immediately. The SOS must audit all newly registered voters and all absentee ballot applications from persons located outside of the state. <u>NOTE: All of these requirements will be applied retroactively to the November 3, 2020 General Election and January 5, 2021 Congressional Runoff Election.</u></p> | Referred to Special Committee on Election Integrity |

CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|---|---|--|
| HB 300 Criminal Record Restriction for Certain Offenses – Rep. Kennard D-102 (Lawrenceville) | This bill sets forth guidelines for criminal records restriction for certain misdemeanors and felonies if all conditions of the sentence are met. | On Second Read - Judiciary Non-Civil Committee |
| HB 308 Authorize Counties to Adopt Ordinances Regarding Misdemeanor Possession – Rep. Wilson D-80 (Brookhaven) | This bill authorizes counties to adopt ordinances governing the misdemeanor possession of marijuana (one ounce or less) within the unincorporated areas of the county provided they do not implement an ordinance that imposes a sentence greater than state law. | On Second Read - Judiciary Non-Civil Committee |
| HB 371 Allow Certain Court Proceedings be conducted via Video Conferencing – Rep. Gunter R-8 (Blairsville) | This bill allows certain court proceedings to be conducted via video conferencing in local jails. | On Second Read - House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee |

District Attorney and Probate Court

| Bill #/Author | Description | Status |
|---|--|--|
| <u>HB 97</u> Require Oath for Chief Probate Court Clerks – Rep. Leverett R-33 (Elberton) | 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. | House Passed (172-0); Referred to Senate Special Judiciary Committee |
| <u>HB 232</u> District Attorney May Request Court Reporter – Rep. Jackson D-64 (Tyrone) | This bill allows the DA to request a court reporter to take down a record of grand jury proceedings when a law enforcement officer has been accused of a crime during the performance of duties. The bill also requires that the court reporter take an oath to keep proceedings confidential. | On Second Read - Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee |
| <u>HB 281</u> Mandatory Notice from Probate Court of Expiration of Weapons Carry License – Rep. Burchett R-176 (Waycross) | This bill mandates that probate court judges provide notice of expiration to all weapons carry license holders not more than 90 days in advance or less than 30 days from expiration. | On Second Read - Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee |
| <u>HB 411</u> Create Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission – Rep. Gullet R-19 (Dallas) | This bill creates the eight member Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission which shall have the power to discipline, remove, and cause involuntary retirement of appointed or elected district attorneys or solicitor-generals. | Referred to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee |

Cybersecurity

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|--|--|--|
| <u>HB 134</u> Cybersecurity: Allow Discussion in Executive Session and Exempt from Open Records – Rep. Anderson R-10 (Cornelia) | <p>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.</p> | House Passed (170-0); Referred to Senate Science and Technology Committee |
| <u>HB 156</u> Locals Must Report Cyber Attacks, Executive Session and Open Records – Rep. Parsons R-44 (Marietta) | <p>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.</p> | House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute |

Property Tax: Statewide Homestead Exemption

- **HB 352 Property Tax: New Statewide Homestead Exemption and Changes to Tax Assessment and Billing – Rep. Momtahan R-17 (Dallas)**: This bill makes significant changes to property taxation for counties and other local governments:
 - Creates a new “floating”/base-year homestead exemption against all county, city, and school property taxes subject to statewide referendum approval. Under this exemption, the portion of a homeowner's property that is exempt from property tax would rise to match any inflationary increases in the property's assessed value that are in excess of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). **ACCG NOTE**: This would mean that such a property would only be taxed upon its assessed value as it existed when the exemption was first applied for, plus half of the CPI percentage increase. All other properties (commercial, industrial, rental, office) would not have the benefit of such a limited increase in taxable property values, meaning that more of the tax burden to support counties, cities and schools would fall on these properties. The increased homestead exemption would remain in place until the property is transferred to another party (other than a surviving spouse, who would continue to receive the exemption);
 - Requires tax commissioners to add to property tax bills information showing all taxes paid for that property for the preceding three years;
 - Allows taxpayers to file a claim for a tax refund up to 10 years after any “negligently incorrect assessment” of the taxpayer's property. Under current law, claims for tax refunds must be brought within 3 years;
 - Makes the position of Chief Tax Appraiser in each county an elected position. Under current law, chief appraisers are appointed by the board of tax assessors;
 - Allows grand jury investigations of any complaint against the Chief Tax Assessor;
 - Allows taxpayers to appeal their property assessments within 180 days from the mailing of property tax assessment notices. Current law requires any appeal within 45 days;
 - Allows taxpayers to submit their own certified appraisal of their properties. County boards of tax assessors would be required to accept the value stated in that appraisal as the property's fair market value for taxation purposes. Boards of tax assessors would be limited to a right to appeal that private appraisal to the Georgia Real Estate Appraisal Board.

Public Property Tax Exemption

| Bill #/Author | Description | Status |
|--|---|--|
| HB 151 Property Tax Exemptions; Public Property – Rep. Burnough D-77 (Riverdale) | <p>This bill would remove one of the qualifications for property tax exemptions 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). <u>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.</u></p> | On Second Read - Ways & Means Committee |
| HB 269 Property Tax: Taxability of Airport Facilities Owned Outside of Government's Borders – Rep. Glanton D-75 (Jonesboro) | <p>This bill would remove the existing property tax exemption for airport lands and facilities that are owned by a local government but located outside of the territorial limits of that local government. <u>The target of this bill is City of Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.</u></p> | On Second Read - Governmental Affairs Committee |

Taxation

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|---|--|---|
| <u>HB 66</u> Tax Abatement: County Can Contest Bond Validation Proceeding – Rep. Oliver D-82 (Decatur) | <p>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.</p> | On Second Read - Governmental Affairs Committee |
| <u>HB 75</u> Property Tax: Clarify Millage Rate Notification Requirements – Rep. Gambill R-15 (Cartersville) | <p>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></p> | On Second Read - Ways & Means Committee |
| <u>HB 160</u> Sales Tax: Expand Eligibility for Municipal Water/Sewer Sales Tax (MOST) – Rep. Boddie D-62 (East Point) | <p>This bill would extend the ability to levy the 1 percent Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST) for water and sewer projects to any municipality with a waste-water system connecting to the City of Atlanta's waste-water system.</p> | On Second Read - Ways & Means Committee |

Taxation

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|---|--|---|
| <u>HB 292</u> Ad Valorem Tax: Reduce Training Requirements for Boards of Equalization – Rep. Williams Jr. R-148 (Cordele) | <p>This bill would remove the requirement that members of county boards of equalization receive at least 20 hours of appraisal training for their second and later terms of office. Members would still be required to receive 40 hours of such training during their first term on boards of equalization.</p> | On Second Read – House Ways & Means Committee |
| <u>HB 317</u> Excise tax; revise definition of innkeeper to include marketplace facilitators; provisions – Rep. Stephens R-164 (Savannah) | <p>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.</p> | On Second Read - House Ways & Means Committee |
| <u>HB 374</u> Sales Tax: Exemption for Public Water/Sewer Authorities – Rep. Gaines R-117 (Athens) | <p>This bill would exempt from state and local sales taxes sales made to public authorities (whether created by local act of the General Assembly or local constitutional amendment) that provide water and/or sewer service to the public.</p> | On Second Read - House Ways & Means Committee |

Taxation

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|--|--|---|
| SB 6 "Tax Credit Return on Investment Act of 2021" – Sen. Albers R-56 (Roswell) | <p>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.</p> | Senate Passed (51-0); On Second Read - House Ways & Means |
| SB 41 Tax Commissioners Retirement Fund of Georgia – Senators Hufstetler R-57 (Rome) and Jackson D-2 (Savannah) | <p>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.</p> | Referred to Retirement Committee |
| SB 57 Tax Exemptions and Credits: Economic Analysis – Sen. Jordan D-6 (Atlanta) | <p>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.</p> | Referred to Senate Finance Committee |

Community & Economic Development

| Bill/Author | Description | Status |
|--|---|--|
| HB 86 Georgia Lottery Mobile Sports Wagering Integrity Act – Rep. Stephens R-164 (Savannah) | <p>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.</p> <p><i>Companion Bill: SB 142 Gambling; Legalize Sports Betting – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga); Referred to Senate Regulated Industries Committee</i></p> | House Economic Development & Tourism Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute |
| HB 148 Development Authorities Board of Directors Appointment and Removal – Rep. Schofield D-60 (Atlanta) | <p>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.</p> | On Second Read - Governmental Affairs Committee |
| SB 30 "Rural Georgia Jobs and Growth Act" – Sen. Beach R-21 (Alpharetta) | <p>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.</p> | Referred to Regulated Industries Committee |

Resolutions: Constitutional Amendments

| Bill #/Author | Description | Status |
|--|--|---|
| HR 30 CA; Authorize Casino Gambling in Georgia – Rep. Stephens R-164 (Savannah) | 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. | On Second Read - Economic Development & Tourism Committee |
| HR 128 CA; Persons who are 17 years of age; register to vote and vote in elections – Rep. Holly D-111 (Stockbridge) | This proposed constitutional amendment provides that persons who are 17 years of age and older may register to vote and vote in elections in this state. | On Second Read - Special Committee on Election Integrity |
| HR 129 CA; Support Economic Development and Small Business – Rep. Neal D-74 (Jonesboro) | This proposed constitutional amendment provides net proceeds from one or more games operated by the state lottery support economic development purposes and fund loan programs for small businesses located in Georgia which are independently owned and operated by Georgia residents. | Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Committee |
| SR 26 CA; Allowing State to Issue Bonds for Airport Projects – Sen. Harper R-7 (Ocilla) | 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. | Senate Tabled |
| SR 53 CA; Pari-Mutuel Betting; horse racing; on the premises of racetrack by or on behalf of the state – Sen. Beach R-21 (Alpharetta) | 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 |

Adjournment Calendar – SR 82

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA

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|------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Wednesday, February 17 | | Legislative Day 18 |
| Thursday, February 18 | | Legislative Day 19 |
| Monday, February 22 | | Legislative Day 20 |
| Tuesday, February 23 | | Legislative Day 21 |
| Wednesday, February 24 | | Legislative Day 22 |
| Thursday, February 25 | | Legislative Day 23 |
| Friday, February 26 | | Legislative Day 24 |
| Monday, March 1 | | Legislative Day 25 |