



FULTON COUNTY 2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Department of External Affairs - February 3, 2021 Item #21-0107



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

Amended Fiscal Year 2021 Budget: HB 80

The House of Representatives passed the Amended Fiscal Year 2021 Budget by committee substitute. Highlights of items added by the House Appropriations Committee to the Governor's Budget Recommendations include:

- Georgia Bureau of Investigation: \$430K for the recruitment of medical examiners for crime labs
- OneGeorgia Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program: A total of \$20 million. Language was added to provide for a grant administrator position and ongoing maintenance of mapping to better assist communities with obtaining grant funds to expand rural broadband.
- Georgia Department of Public Health: \$18 million for the modernization of the Public Health Surveillance System to better track COVID-19 cases and vaccinations. An additional \$15 million was added to the public health budget for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

The bill is currently being considered by the Senate Appropriations Committee and is expected to be complete this week.

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>	Referred to Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care
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>	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.

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.

Human Trafficking

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 177 Torts; provide a cause of action against perpetrators for victims of human trafficking – Rep. Bonner R-72 (Fayetteville)	<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: SB 33 Torts; cause of action against perpetrators for victims of human trafficking – Sen. Dixon R-45 (Buford)</p>	Referred to Judiciary Committee
HB 178 Domestic relations; victims of human trafficking may petition for name change under seal – Rep. Bonner R-72 (Fayetteville)	<p>This bill provides that victims of human trafficking may petition for name change under seal.</p> <p>Companion bill: SB 34 Domestic Relations; name change; victims of human trafficking may petition – Sen. Dixon R-45 (Buford); Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee</p>	Referred to Judiciary Committee

Teleconference Meetings

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<u>HB 98</u> Public Hearings: Authorize by Teleconference – Rep. Lumsden R-12 (Armuchee)	<p>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.</p>	Referred to Governmental Affairs Committee
<u>HB 107</u> Authorize Local Workforce Boards to Meet via Teleconference – Rep. Hugley D-136 (Columbus)	<p>This bill authorizes local workforce development boards formed by the federal Workforce Investment Act to meet via teleconference.</p>	Referred to Governmental Affairs Committee

Cybersecurity

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 134 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>	Referred to Judiciary Committee
HB 156 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>	Referred to Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee

Community & Economic Development

Bill/Author	Description	Status
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.	Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Committee
HB 148 Development Authorities Board of Directors Appointment and Removal – Rep. Schofield D-60 (Atlanta)	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
HB 161 Downtown Development Authorities Can Expire – Rep. Tankersley R-160 (Brooklet)	This bill removes the provision that downtown development authorities have a perpetual existence which will allow them to expire.	Referred to Governmental Affairs Committee
SB 30 "Rural Georgia Jobs and Growth Act" – Senators Beach R-21 (Alpharetta) and Harbison D-15 (Columbus)	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

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.

Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Committee

Local Government Requirements

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 23 Annexation; Include Schools in the Dispute Resolution Process – Rep. Oliver D-82 (Decatur)	This bill first requires a city to notify the respective board of education every time the city receives an annexation petition. The school system could then object to the annexation under the state's dispute resolution process if the annexation will significantly impact the student capacity of schools servicing the area to be annexed.	Referred to Governmental Affairs Committee
HB 79 Fireworks; Counties and Cities Would Regulate Use, Dates and Times – Rep. Allen D-40 (Smyrna)	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
HB 187 Local government; provide compilation of all local ordinances; require authorities – Rep. Lim D-99 (Norcross)	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
SB 32 Disclosure of Public Employees' Records – Sen. Brass R-38 (Newnan)	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

Local Government Preemption

- **HB 150 Governmental Entities Cannot Discriminate Against Types or Sources of Energy or Fuel – Rep. Williamson R-115 (Monroe):** This preemption legislation prohibits any Georgia local government from adopting any policy that prohibits, or has the effect of prohibiting, the connection or reconnection of any utility service based on the type or source of energy or fuel to be delivered to any customer. Local governments may still choose utility services for the properties they own.

Referred to Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

Gang Prevention

- **HB 47 Legislative Gang Prevention and Intervention Commission – Rep. Gilliard D-162 (Garden City)**: This bill creates the Legislative Gang Prevention and Intervention Commission. The Commission shall submit an annual report recommending strategic, coordinated, and collaborative efforts between educational institutions and community and social services organizations for the implementation and maintenance of programs and initiatives designed to prevent and intervene in criminal gang participation by youth. Such report shall be submitted to the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee and the Senate Public Safety Committee no later than January 1 of each calendar year.

Referred to Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

Elections: Request for BOC Support Position

- **HB 77 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.
 - Current Version: LC 28 9961

Referred to Special Committee on Election Integrity

Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 59 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.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
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.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
HB 64 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.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
HB 65 Elections for Consolidated Governments – Rep. Gaines R-117 (Athens)	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
HB 101 Elections; restrictions of voting rights for judicially incompetent persons – Rep. McLaurin D-51 (Sandy Springs)	This bill allows persons convicted of moral turpitude to vote before completion of their sentence.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
HB 113 Elections; same day registration and voting – Rep. Alexander D-66 (Hiram)	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.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
HB 121 Elections; certain electors list maintenance activities; eliminate – Rep. Nguyen D-89 (Atlanta)	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
HB 132 Elections; written operating procedures for elections and voter registration activities in each county – Rep. Mainor D-56 (Atlanta)	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. Said procedures relate to team meetings with recorded minutes that are open to the public; processing of absentee ballots applications and ballots; validation of signatures on absentee ballots; qualifications of election staff; job descriptions for election staff; how staff handles election complaints; how complaints involving criminal conduct are referred to prosecuting attorneys; and more. 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. This board is to advise the county on how to improve its elections, community engagement and outreach, and other matters.	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity

Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 136 Elections; Probate Judge Unable to Fulfill Duties – Rep. Lumsden R-12 (Armuchee)	<p>Currently, in counties where the probate judge administers elections, there is no clear chain of command if and when the judge becomes incapacitated or is unable to perform her or his election duties. This bill states that, in such cases, the chief judge of the superior court in the circuit will temporarily serve as the acting election superintendent. The county will set the acting superintendent's salary until the vacancy is filled.</p>	Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity
SB 29 Elections; Require Photocopy of ID for Absentee Ballot – Sen. Anavitarte R-31	<p>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.</p>	Referred to Ethics Committee
SB 35 Elections: Poll Workers May Serve Outside the County Where they Live or Work – Sen. Parent D-42 (Atlanta)	<p>This bill removes the current law requirement that poll workers must live or work in the county in which they serve.</p>	Referred to Ethics Committee
SB 37 Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote – Sen. Au D-48	<p>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.</p>	Referred to Ethics Committee

Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<u>SB 38</u> 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
<u>SB 39</u> 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
<u>SB 40</u> Elections; Begin Tabulating Absentee Ballots Earlier – Sen. Jordan D-6 (Atlanta)	This legislation 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
<u>SB 67</u> Elections; Submission of Absentee Ballot Application ID – Sen. Walkers III R-20	This bill requires voters submit an ID photocopy with absentee ballot applications. 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
<u>SB 68</u> Elections; Prohibit Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)	This bill prohibits the use of absentee drop boxes and requires absentee ballots to be returned through the mail or at county elections offices.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<u>SB 69</u> Elections; End Automatic Voter Registration – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)	This bill will require voters to specifically choose to be registered to vote when they obtain a driver's license. Currently voter registration is automatically included in this process.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<u>SB 70</u> Elections; Prohibits new Georgia residents from voting in runoffs – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)	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
<u>SB 71</u> Elections; Requires an excuse to vote absentee – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)	This bill limits the definition of an 'absentee elector' to voters over 75 years old, voters with disabilities or anyone required to be absent from his or her precinct. Currently the law allows registered voters to cast an absentee ballot for any reason.	Referred to Ethics Committee

Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<u>SB 72</u> Elections; Mandates monthly updates to election officials of voters who have died – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)	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
<u>SB 73</u> Elections; Prohibits nonprofit organization from mailing absentee ballot applications to voters – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)	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.	Referred to Ethics Committee
<u>SB 74</u> Elections; Expands Poll Watcher Access Expansion – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)	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 by the election superintendent is allowed but should be minimal.	

CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 15 Preventing Tragedies Between Police and Communities Act – Rep. Scott D-76 (Rex)	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
HB 19 Due Process in Civil Forfeiture Act; enact – Rep. Scott D-76 (Rex)	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
HB 20 Elimination of Immunity for Coroners and Medical Examiners in Certain Death Investigations – Rep. Scott D-76 (Rex)	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
HB 69 Elimination of Sovereign Immunity for State Officers and Local Law Enforcement – Rep. Kendrick D-93 (Lithonia)	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
HB 110 Allow Anyone who qualifies for a Weapons Carry License to Carry a Weapon – Rep. Clark R-147 (Warner Robins)	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
HB 145 Standards for Use of Force by Law Enforcement – Rep. Boddie D-62 (East Point)	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
SB 10 "Jaye Mize Law"; promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags; provide for an offense – Sen. Jones D-10 (Decatur)	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

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)	<p>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.</p>	Referred to Judiciary Committee
<u>HB 140</u> District Attorney May Request Change of Venue – Rep. Boddie D-62 (East Point)	<p>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.</p>	Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
<u>HB 143</u> Creation of District Attorneys Oversight Commission – Rep. Boddie D-62 (East Point)	<p>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.</p>	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
HB 63 Title Ad Valorem Tax: Changing Taxable Value for Leased Vehicles – Rep. Blackmon R-146 (Bonaire)	<p>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.</p>	Referred to Ways & Means Committee
HB 66 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>	Referred to Governmental Affairs Comm.
HB 75 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>	Referred to Ways & Means Committee

Taxation

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<u>SB 6</u> "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 five existing or proposed tax expenditure laws. 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); Referred to House Ways & Means Committee
<u>SB 41</u> 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. The retirement fund would be administered by a board consisting of tax commissioners and Governor's appointees. The retirement fund would be funded by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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). <p>Participation in this retirement fund would not affect the tax commissioner's eligibility or participation in any other retirement fund nor could such other retirement fund reduce a tax commissioner's benefits because of the availability of this newly created retirement fund.</p> <p>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

Resolutions: Constitutional Amendments

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<u>HR 28 Constitutional Amendment; Allow Those Convicted of Moral Turpitude to Vote Before Completion of Sentence – Rep. McLaurin D-51 (Sandy Springs)</u>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Referred to the Special Committee on Election Integrity</p>
<u>HR 30 Constitutional Amendment; Authorize Casino Gambling in Georgia – Rep. Stephens R-164 (Savannah)</u>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Committee</p>
<u>SR 26 Constitutional Amendment; Allowing State to Issue Bonds for Airport Projects – Sen. Harper R-7 (Ocilla)</u>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Referred to Appropriations Committee</p>

Adjournment Calendar – HR 31

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA

Wednesday, February 3	Legislative Day 11
Thursday, February 4	Legislative Day 12
Monday, February 8	Legislative Day 13