



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners
March 16, 2022**

State Legislative Update

Ensure Local Home Rule: Redistricting

**Strengthen Behavioral Health Model & Funding
For Substance Abuse Treatment & Prevention**

**Create A More Efficient & Effective
Justice System - Compensation for Officials**

**Create A More Efficient & Effective Justice System
– Diversion & Reentry Programs**

**Create A More Efficient & Effective Justice System
– Codify Judicial Practices**

Support Certain Evictions Record Sealing

**Support Homeowner Protections With Greater
HOA Transparency**



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**2022
State Legislative
Agenda**

Redistricting

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
SB 437 – Fulton County Board of Commissioners; Change description of Districts; Sen. Albers (56th)	Bill provides new district lines and map for Fulton County District. Map used for this bill is the original map designed for Senator Albers, which is based on the Board of Commissioners' approved map.	Signed by Governor; Act 535
HB 991 – Fulton County Board of Education Redistricting; Rep. Bruce (61st)	Bill provides for new district lines and map for Fulton County schools districts.	Signed by Governor; Act 404
SB 472 – Public Service Commission; description of the election districts for members; change; Sen. John Kennedy (18th)	Bill changes the description of the election districts for members of the Public Service Commission and provides for manner of election and terms of office.	Signed by Governor; Act 565

Evictions Public Relief

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
HB 894 – Property; prospective tenant shall not be refused a rental or lease agreement solely based upon a previous eviction due to COVID-19; Rep. Boddie (62nd)	No landlord or owner of real estate shall refuse to enter into a rental or lease agreement with a prospective tenant if such refusal is solely based upon such prospective tenant being previously evicted during a period when a public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic was declared to exist by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.	Second Readers; House Judiciary Committee
HB 1149 – Georgia Evictions Records Restriction Act; Rep. Burnough (77th) & Rep. Boddie (62nd)	Bill provides for one-time sealing of evictions records caused by non-payment of rent during a public health emergency and under other adjudication terms.	Second Readers; House Judiciary Committee

Budget: Amended Fiscal Year 2022

[HB 910](#), the Amended Fiscal Year 2022 budget, was passed by both chambers and has been sent to the Governor for his signature. This bill is based on a revised revenue estimate of \$30.3 billion, an increase of \$3.08 billion or 11.3%, over the current budget. Highlights:

- \$1.4 million for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to provide support services to children and adults with developmental disabilities.
- \$5,000 raises for state employees; counties would also be required to give this \$5,000 increase to their constitutional officers, magistrate judges, and county commissioners beginning January 1, 2023.
- \$302,505 Added for technology upgrades to the Georgia Crisis Access Line in preparation for interfacing with the national 988 suicide prevention hotline.

Budget: Fiscal Year 2023

The Fiscal Year 2023 budget ([HB 911](#)) passed the House of Representatives (155-3) and has moved to the Senate for consideration. This bill is based on a revenue estimate of \$30.2 billion, an increase of \$2.9 billion or 10.8%, over the original Fiscal Year 2022 budget. Highlights:

- \$9.7 million for a new behavioral health crisis center
- \$4,800,000 in 20-year bonds to complete construction of the new Department of Public Safety headquarters building, Atlanta, Fulton County.
- \$1.4 million for 200 slots for the Georgia Housing Voucher program and adds \$2.1 million to provide a total of \$3.5 million for 500 slots and administrative support to help those experiencing mental illness obtain permanent housing.
- Provides \$28.2 million to provide one year of postpartum Medicaid coverage to mothers in order to address Georgia's high incidence of maternal mortality.

Homelessness

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
SB 535 – "Reducing Street Homelessness Act of 2022"; Sen. Summers (13th) and others	Bill creates a statewide misdemeanor offense for public camping without authorization by homeless individuals. The Attorney General is allowed to bring action against local governments that adopt a policy to restrict enforcement of public camping bans. Additional penalties against these local governments include denial of state grant funding.	Senate Government Oversight Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute
SR 659 – Senate Study Committee on Unsheltered Homelessness; Sen. Summers (13th)	This resolution creates the five member Senate Study Committee on Unsheltered Homelessness to study unsheltered homelessness in Georgia and the City of Atlanta.	Referred to Senate Rules Committee

Justice System

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
<u>HB 830</u> – Courts; limiting sheriffs to one additional salary for serving as the sheriff of multiple courts; repeal provisions; Rep. Erwin (28th)	Bill requires counties to pay their sheriff a supplement for official services in up to two courts beyond the Superior Court. Current law provides that sheriffs can only receive this supplement for one court regardless of the number of the courts served.	House Public Safety and Homeland Security Favorably Reported by Substitute
<u>HB 1234</u> – Juvenile proceedings; right to an attorney for any child receiving extended care services; Rep. Ballinger (23rd)	Bill clarifies that individuals receiving extended care youth services from the Division of Family and Children Services remain entitled to receive court appointed legal representation.	House Adopted

Health & Human Services

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
<p><u>HB 1092</u> – Georgia Women's CARE Act: Court Sentence Deference for Pregnant Women; Rep. Cooper (43rd)</p>	<p>Bill allows women who are pregnant at the time of conviction of a crime to have their sentence deferred until six weeks after they have given birth.</p>	<p>House Passed; Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee</p>
<p><u>HB 1192</u> – Treatment under Medicaid to persons with HIV; Rep. Cooper (43rd)</p>	<p>Bill requires the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid for a demonstration project to provide treatment services under Medicaid to persons in this state living with HIV.</p>	<p>House Passed; Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee</p>
<p><u>HB 1404</u> – Community Health, Department; submit waiver request to qualify for Medicaid reimbursement; Rep. Pruitt (149th)</p>	<p>Bill requires the Department of Community Health to apply for federal approval in order for Crisis-Stabilization Units to qualify for Medicaid reimbursement.</p>	<p>House Health & Human Services Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute</p>
<p><u>SB 338</u> – Medicaid; Postpartum coverage; Sen. Burke (11th)</p>	<p>Postpartum care for mothers would be extended for a period of six months to one year.</p>	<p>House Second Readers; Health & Human Services Committee</p>

Behavioral Health Reforms

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
HB 752 – Psychiatric Advance Directive; Rep. Cooper (43rd)	Bill provides for a competent adult to express their preference for mental health care treatment thru instructions or an agent.	Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee
HB 1013 – Mental Health Parity Act; Speaker David Ralston (7th)	Omnibus bill proposes to require parity for mental health insurance coverage; Increases the number of mental health professionals in the state; Provides help to first responders help on mental health crisis calls; Improves data and transparency including enforcement of the Federal Parity Act of 2008 by requiring public reports.	House Passed; Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee
SB 342 – Mental Health Parity Insurance; Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd)	Bill establishes reporting requirements for insurance companies to ensure that there is mental health parity within healthcare plans.	House Second Readers; Health and Human Services
SB 403 – "GA Behavioral Health & Peace Officer Co-Responder Act"; Sen. Watson (1st)	Bill requires each Community Service Board to establish a co-responder program to assist law enforcement officers with special behavior health cases. <u>It also requires counties to retain a list of all law enforcement agencies who respond to emergency calls.</u>	House Health and Human Services Committee Favorably Reported

Elections

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
HB 886 – Security Tracking of the Security Ballot Paper; Rep. Powell (32nd)	Bill requires new security ballot paper be in locked containers; sealed and numbered, with the numbers recorded on tracking forms. Persons in possession of the containers must provide written confirmation with the date/time, number of ballots to track chain of custody.	House Governmental Affairs Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute
HB 933 – Retention of ballots; Rep. Blackmon (146th)	Bill allows persons to inspect ballots and other elections documents (following election returns) held by the Clerk of Superior Court. No one outside the Clerk’s office will physically handle the ballots.	House Second Readers; Governmental Affairs
HB 1085 – Elections; option for municipalities to adopt and use instant runoff voting; Rep. Gullett (19th)	Bill allows for instant runoff (or ranked choice) voting in municipal elections. Voters would indicate their preference for each office by marking a “1” next to their first choice, a “2” for the second choice, etc. for the political party in whose primary the elector desires to vote. In the case of a runoff, the candidate who receives the elector’s highest designation would receive the vote.	House Governmental Affairs Committee Favorably Reported

Elections (continued)

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
<p>HB 1464 – Georgia Bureau of Investigation; original jurisdiction to investigate election fraud and elections crimes; Rep. Burchett (176th)</p>	<p>Omnibus bill provides GBI with original jurisdiction and subpoena power to investigate election fraud and election crimes; authorizes paper ballot inspections; limits grant funding to approval by State Election Board; provides chain of custody requirements and handling and storage guidelines for specified election materials; and provides additional clean-up language to numerous requirements from SB 202.</p>	<p>House Special Committee on Election Integrity Favorably Reported by Substitute</p>
<p>SB 325 – Elections and Primaries; Sen. Miller (49th)</p>	<p>Bill eliminates the use of absentee ballot drop boxes; HB 1317 is a companion paper (Second Readers in Special Committee on Election Integrity)</p>	<p>Senate Read & Referred; Ethics</p>
<p>SB 538 – Elections and Primaries; fraud countermeasures on physical absentee ballots; require; Sen. Harbin (16th)</p>	<p>Bill requires certain fraud countermeasures on physical absentee ballots including the use of unique security paper. These ballots shall only be required in the event of a specific appropriation of funds by the General Assembly to the office of the Secretary of State to reimburse each election superintendent, county, or municipality for the costs of acquiring the ballots and associated equipment.</p>	<p>Senate Read & Referred to Ethics</p>

Public Safety and the Courts

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
<p><u>HB 1134</u> – Prosecute offenses involving criminal gang activity; provide for concurrent authority; Rep. Efration (104th)</p>	<p>Bill amends Code Section 16-15-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to participation in criminal gang activity prohibited, so as to provide for the concurrent authority of prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General to prosecute offenses involving criminal gang activity.</p>	<p>House Passed; Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee</p>
<p><u>SB 277</u> – Firearms Carry laws for court; Sen. Mullis (53rd)</p>	<p>Bill authorizes Solicitors to carry handguns in any courthouse. BOC Position: OPPOSE</p>	<p>House Second Readers; Public Safety & Homeland Security</p>
<p><u>SB 319</u> – "Georgia Constitutional Carry Act of 2021"; Sen. Anavitarte (31st)</p>	<p>Bill would eliminate gun permit requirement in order to carry a gun in public if the individual is a lawful weapons carrier.</p>	<p>House Second Readers; Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee</p>
<p><u>SB 505</u> – Communications Officers: Require Training to Deliver of High-quality Telephone Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation; Sen. Robertson (29th)</p>	<p>Bill requires 911 Communications Officers to receive training for performing high-quality telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation.</p>	<p>House Second Readers; Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee</p>

Arts & Culture

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
SR 477 – Joint Georgia Music Heritage Study Committee; Sen. Mullis (53rd)	This resolution creates the Joint Georgia Music Heritage Study Committee composed of 14 members. This study committee will examine several aspects of the music industry in Georgia including ways to measure, expand, and promote the music economy statewide and foster integration with other creative industries, including film, digital media, and gaming; Georgia Music Hall of Fame promotions; and the current state of the music tourism sector.	Senate Adopted; Favorably Reported by House Creative Arts & Entertainment Committee

Vaccination Prohibitions

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
<p>HB 1394 – Public Health, Dept. of; require persons to submit to vaccinations or other measures to prevent contagious or infectious diseases; repeal authority; Rep. Byrd (20th)</p>	<p>Bill does not allow county boards of health to require vaccinations against contagious or infectious diseases and restricts counties from requiring a person to wear a face mask. The bill also prohibits an individual or business from requiring customers to show proof of vaccination or wear a mask to enter their facility.</p>	<p>House Second Readers; Health & Human Services Committee</p>
<p>SB 345 – State Government; state and local governments from mandating vaccine passports; prohibit; Sen. Mullis (53rd)</p>	<p>Bill prohibits state and local governments from requiring proof of a COVID-19 vaccination from any person as a condition of providing any service or access to any facility, issuing any license, permit, or other type of authorization, or performing any duty of such agency. Local governments cannot require any person or private entity to provide proof of vaccination as a condition of providing any service or access to any facility, or as a condition of a person/entity performance of any regular activity by such person or private entity. The bill does not apply if it interferes with compliance with regulations of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services and the law would sunset on June 30, 2023.</p>	<p>House Second Readers; Health & Human Services Committee</p>

Development Authorities

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
<p>HB 923 – Development authorities; cap the per diem allowance; Rep. Oliver (82nd)</p>	<p>Bill caps the per diem allowance paid to development authority directors and establishes procedures for ethics violation hearings of development authority members. The bill also authorizes, in addition to the governor, the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission and local ethics boards or offices to have concurrent jurisdiction over ethics violations of development authority members.</p>	<p>House Government Affairs Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute</p>
<p>HB 1044 – Creation of regional development authorities; Rep. Pirkle (155th)</p>	<p>Bill provides for the creation of regional development authorities and an enhancement for the jobs tax credit for such authorities. A county shall not belong to more than one regional development authority.</p>	<p>Referred to Senate Economic Development & Tourism Committee</p>
<p>HB 1181 – Directors of development authorities shall not serve as chairperson/CEO; Rep. Jackson (64th)</p>	<p>Bill prohibits members of a county or municipal governing authority that are appointed as directors of development authorities from serving as chairpersons or chief executive officers of such authority. It also requires consent of impacted municipalities and school boards for tax abated projects and deals.</p>	<p>House Second Readers; Governmental Affairs</p>
<p>HB 1382 – Local government; require directors to do yearly continuing education; Rep. Stephens (164th)</p>	<p>Bill requires each director of a development authority to complete at least four hours of continuing education training courses yearly on development and redevelopment programs. This training is not required if you're a member of a governing body of a municipality or county. The training can occur either in person or online and is required to access funding from or administered by the OneGeorgia Authority.</p>	<p>House Governmental Affairs Committee Favorably Reported</p>

Annexation

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
<p>HB 836 – Atlanta, City of; change corporate limits; Rep. Bruce (61st)</p>	<p>Bill would incorporate currently unincorporated property in the Fulton Industrial District that lies north of U.S. Interstate 20.</p>	<p>Senate Read & Referred State and Local Governmental Operations</p>
<p>HB 1461 – Local government; annexation of territory; revise provisions relating to dispute resolution; Rep. Anderson (10th)</p>	<p>Bill includes extending time period by which counties may object to annexation from 30 to 45 days; Splitting the arbitration costs evenly between the county and city, unless it is found that the county has waged a non-valid objection; Authorizing notification requirements to be delivered by hand or e-mail, so long as it is a verifiable method; Allowing arbitration panels to postpone, by up to 10 days, the period by which they may conclude their findings and recommendations.</p>	<p>House Government Affairs Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute</p>
<p>SR 298 – Senate Annexation Study Committee; Sen. Beach (21st)</p>	<p>This resolution creates a five-member Senate Annexation Study Committee to study Article 7 of Chapter 36 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated in 2007 to provide an annexation dispute resolution procedure update.</p>	<p>Referred to Senate Rules</p>

Public Works

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
SB 438 – Contracts; certain provisions relating to retainage of progress payments; Sen. Tippins (37th)	Bill alters the maximum percentage local governments can retain for progress payments in relation to public works construction projects.	Senate Adopted; House Second Readers; Judiciary

Revenue and Taxation

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
<u>HB 1094</u> – Revenue and taxation; notices of current assessment; revise language required; Rep. Leverett (33rd)	Bill eliminates the estimated tax amount on the annual assessment notice.	House Second Readers; Ways and Means
<u>HB 1280</u> – Tax Commissioners: Provide for Collection Contracting Requirements and Compensation; Rep. Lim (99th)	Bill establishes a 3-way collection contract between municipalities, counties and tax commissioners regarding the annual collection of property taxes and fees. This bill also provides for the tax commissioner's compensation requirements to be included in the contract with a municipality or county and caps their pay at 50% of their base salary.	House Passed By Substitute; Referred to Senate Finance Committee

Veterans Affairs

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
<p>SB 11 – "Senator Jack Hill Veterans Act"; Sen. Rhett (33rd) and others</p>	<p>Bill authorizes Georgia taxpayers to make certain voluntary contributions through the income tax payment and refund process to aid and assist service-disabled veterans through a qualified service-disabled veterans benefit organization that meets rules set by the Department of Revenue. This law shall apply to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021.</p>	<p>Senate Recommitted to Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security Committee</p>
<p>SB 87 –"Senator Jack Hill Veterans' Act"; Sen. Rhett (33rd) and others</p>	<p>Bill authorizes Georgia taxpayers to make certain voluntary contributions through the income tax payment and refund process to aid and assist service-disabled veterans through scholarships to the Technical College System of Georgia. This law shall apply to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.</p>	<p>House Ways & Means Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute</p>
<p>SB 339 –'Green Call Act'; Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd)</p>	<p>Bill will establish a program called the "green alert program" which is a system that will help the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and local law enforcement identify missing military veterans who have physical or mental health conditions, and who are at risk of imminent self-harm.</p>	<p>Senate Passed by Substitute</p>
<p>SB 358 – GA Public Safety Training Center reimbursements; Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd)</p>	<p>Bill will ensure that the appropriations designated to reimburse certain costs incurred in training active duty, retired, or honorably discharged members of the United States armed forces who are attending basic law enforcement training at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center are sufficient. If appropriations are not sufficient, the cost shall be reduced to match the designated appropriations.</p>	<p>House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee Favorably Reported</p>

Study Committee: Consolidate Governments

Bill Caption/Author	Bill Description	Status
HR 630 – Joint Study Committee for Consolidation of County Governments and School Systems; Rep. Taylor, (173rd)	This resolution establishes a joint House/Senate study committee to review county and school system consolidation, including possible incentives and economies of scale that may come with consolidation. The study committee would consist of 10 members, including three House members, three Senators, one member appointed by GMA, one member appointed by ACCG, and three members appointed by the Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia. The committee would be abolished on December 1, 2022. All findings and recommendations must be filed by that date.	House Governmental Affairs Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

Upcoming Events

- April 28-May 1: ACCG Annual Conference

