



Fulton County Board of Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary

20-0227

BOC Meeting Date
3/18/2020

Requesting Agency

External Affairs

Commission Districts Affected

All Districts

Requested Action *(Identify appropriate Action or Motion, purpose, cost, timeframe, etc.)*

Presentation of 2020 Legislative Update

Requirement for Board Action *(Cite specific Board policy, statute or code requirement)*

Request Approval

Is this Item related to a Strategic Priority Area? *(If yes, note strategic priority area below)*

Yes All People Trust Government is Effective, Efficient and Fiscally Sound Open and Responsible Government

Is this a purchasing item?

No

Summary & Background

(First sentence includes Agency recommendation. Provide an executive summary of the action that gives an overview of the relevant details for the item.)

Presentation of 2020 Legislative Update

Contract & Compliance Information

(Provide Contractor and Subcontractor details.)

Agency Director Approval		County Manager's Approval
Typed Name and Title	Phone	
Signature	Date	

Revised 03/12/09 (Previous versions are obsolete)

Agency Director Approval		County Manager's Approval
Typed Name and Title	Phone	
Signature	Date	

Revised 03/12/09 (Previous versions are obsolete)

Solicitation Information	NON-MFBE	MBE	FBE	TOTAL
No. Bid Notices Sent:				
No. Bids Received:				
Total Contract Value	.			
Total M/FBE Values	.			
Total Prime Value	.			
Fiscal Impact / Funding Source	(Include projected cost, approved budget amount and account number, source of funds, and any future funding requirements.)			
.				
Exhibits Attached	(Provide copies of originals, number exhibits consecutively, and label all exhibits in the upper right corner.)			
Source of Additional Information	(Type Name, Title, Agency and Phone)			

Agency Director Approval		County Manager's Approval
Typed Name and Title	Phone	
Signature	Date	

Revised 03/12/09 (Previous versions are obsolete)

Procurement**Contract Attached:**

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Previous Contracts:

.

Solicitation Number:

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Submitting Agency:

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Staff Contact:

.

Contact Phone:

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Description:.**FINANCIAL SUMMARY****Total Contract Value:**

Original Approved Amount: .

Previous Adjustments: .

This Request: .

TOTAL: .

MBE/FBE Participation:

Amount: . %: .

Amount: . %: .

Amount: . %: .

Amount: . %: .

Grant Information Summary:

Amount Requested: .

Match Required: .

Start Date: .

End Date: .

Match Account \$: .

☐

Cash

☐

In-Kind

☐

Approval to Award

☐

Apply & Accept

Funding Line 1:

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Funding Line 2:

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Funding Line 3:

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Funding Line 4:

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KEY CONTRACT TERMS**Start Date:**

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End Date:

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Cost Adjustment:

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Renewal/Extension Terms:

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ROUTING & APPROVALS

(Do not edit below this line)

X	Originating Department:	Corbitt, Jessica	Date: 3/11/2020
.	County Attorney:	.	Date: .
.	Purchasing/Contract Compliance:	.	Date: .
.	Finance/Budget Analyst/Grants Admin:	.	Date: .
.	Grants Management:	.	Date: .
X	County Manager:	Anderson, Dick	Date: 3/12/2020



FULTON COUNTY 2020 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
Department of External Affairs - March 18, 2020 Item #



20-0227

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

**ENSURE AUTONOMY FOR
FULTON COUNTY AIRPORT**

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

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

SIMPLIFY HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

**PROTECT
AIR QUALITY**

**IMPROVE BOARD OF
EQUALIZATION PROCESS**

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

**ENSURE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
TRANSPARENCY**



**FULTON
COUNTY**

2020
State Legislative
Update

ENSURE SECURE &
ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS

SUPPORT
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

SUPPORT
HOMEOWNER PROTECTIONS

SUPPORT HOUSING SOLUTIONS &
AFFORDABILITY



2020 State Legislative Update

Amended Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021 Budgets

The Amended Fiscal Year 2020 Budget ([HB 792](#)) conference committee will begin meeting this week. The Fiscal Year 2021 budget ([HB 793](#)) is set by a revenue estimate of \$28.1 billion, an increase of \$566.3 million, or 2.06%, over the original Fiscal Year 2020 budget. The House of Representatives passed HB 793 with a vote of 134-35 on March 10, 2020 and the bill has moved on to the Senate. Highlights include:

- \$10.8 million added for crisis beds and behavioral health services in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). This new funding ensures that Georgia maintains its current serving capacity of 4,953 individuals, across 95 crisis beds, in 21 crisis units statewide.
- \$1.5 million restored to DBHDD to provide a 25% increase in the residential capacity for the treatment of addiction, increasing the bed count by 44 statewide.
- The \$2.11 million proposed cut to accountability courts is completely restored to allow the courts to continue diverting more non-violent offenders from expensive jails or prisons to successful rehabilitative programs within communities.
- \$5.4 million for public health grants to counties restored to promote healthcare access.
- Recommends the use of \$1.6 million in Super Speeder collections to support Grady Memorial Hospital's efforts to continue the coordination of emergency room use in the 13-county metro Atlanta area.
- Provides a \$1,000 pay raise for certified teachers and certified personnel.

SUPPORT LONG-TERM TRANSIT FUNDING AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

HB 511 Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL): Clean Up Bill – Representatives Tanner R-9 (Dawsonville), Smyre D-135 (Columbus), England R-116 (Auburn): This legislation mainly applies to the Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority (ATL). This bill reassigns the ATL from GRTA to GDOT and also revises the election process and how vacancies are filled for the ATL Board of Directors. Lastly, the bill extends until July 1, 2025 the use of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) used to adjust the excise tax on motor fuel.

Senate Transportation Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute

State Bonds for Airport Projects

SR 885 Constitutional Amendment; Allowing State to Bond Airport Projects – Senators Harper R-7 (Ocilla), Hill R-4 (Reidsville), Burke R-11 (Bainbridge): This proposed constitutional amendment would allow the state to incur general obligation debt in order to make loans or grants to local governments, local authorities, and local commissions that own airports (with less than 750,000 takeoffs and landings per calendar year) for the acquisition, construction, development, extension, enlargement, or improvement of airports.

Senate Transportation Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

Georgia Water Customer Bill of Rights Act

HB 465 Georgia Water Customer Bill of Rights Act – Representatives Parsons R-44 (Marietta), Drenner D-85 (Avondale Estates), Smith R-70 (Newnan): This bill creates new requirements for public and private water systems. The bill includes specifics on customer service standards, how and when billing should occur and notification requirements regarding termination of service.

House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute

SUPPORT CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

HB 1037 Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act – Reps. Dollar R-45 (Marietta), Stephens R-164 (Savannah), Silcox R -52 (Sandy Springs):

This bill requires all film, television and media production that qualifies for the state film income tax credit to undergo mandatory audits by the Department of Revenue. The bill expands the list of activities that qualify for the state film income tax credit to include the 2026 World Cup and music licensing, while also limiting the credit for activities actually performed outside of Georgia.

House Ways & Means Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

ENSURE SECURE & ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
HB 117 Elections; Electors Can Vote in any Precinct – Reps. Bruce D-61 (Atlanta), Dewey D-100 (Lawrenceville), Kennard D-102 (Lawrenceville)	This bill authorizes counties to allow any elector within the county to vote in any precinct of the county that the elector chooses in a primary, general election or runoff. The election superintendent has to ensure certain safeguards such as preventing electors from voting more than once, providing sufficient ballot styles at each precinct and ensuring each precinct has enough voting equipment and poll workers.	Hearing Only Elections Subcommittee of Governmental Affairs Meeting on March 4, 2020
SB 463 Elections; Several Changes to State Law – Senators Kennedy R-18 (Macon), Dugan R-30 (Carrollton), Gooch R-51 (Dahlonega)	Current law requires counties to provide one voting machine for each 250 electors for all elections. This bill still requires that ratio for general elections, but allows counties flexibility to reduce the amount of voting machines for other elections based on expected turnout, type of election, length of ballot, advanced voting and other factors. Also, counties which have precincts where voters experience longer than an hour wait time for an election must take measures to reduce that wait time by the next election by either reducing the size of the precinct or adding additional voting machines. The bill makes several other changes to clean up election law.	Senate Ethics Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority - **SUPPORT**

SB 309 Georgia Municipal and Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority Act – Reps. Stone R-23 (Waynesboro), Tate D-38 (Atlanta), Walker III R-20 (Perry): This legislation creates two authorities – one administered by the Georgia Municipal Association and one by ACCG – that will have the power to provide financing for local government capital projects (facilities and equipment). Under this legislation, the authorities will have the ability to pool purchases for multiple local governments, with the goal of lowering borrowing costs.

Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

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

HB 1038 Property Taxes; Improvements to Commercial Property Assessment – Representatives Dreyer D-59 (Atlanta), Silcox R -52 (Sandy Springs), Jones R-25 (South Forsyth): This bill would make multiple changes to the assessment/valuation of commercial properties, which studies show are significantly undervalued for tax purposes:

- Tax assessors would be authorized to reassess property that is otherwise subject to the 3-year valuation "freeze" following a tax appeal, if changed market conditions show that the property's value has increased at least 15% over the frozen value, as shown by an income-approach valuation.
- For tax appeals on commercially used properties valued above \$5 million, the taxpayer would be required to provide a list of property-specific data, including financial statements, real estate appraisals, and an itemized list of personal property and fixtures located on the property.
- Eliminates the current requirement that property owners be billed at only 85% of the assessed value if an appeal of that assessment is still pending at the time of billing.
- In cases where the final value determined on appeal is 85% or less than the board of equalization value, the taxpayer's entitlement to the county paying attorney's fees would be limited to 50% of the actual tax savings by the taxpayer, with a maximum award of \$30,000. Additionally, no attorney's fees would be awardable if the taxpayer has failed to provide the documentation described above.
- No properties that are subject to the 3-year valuation freeze could be used as a comparable property in determining another property value.

Hearing Only in Ad Valorem Subcommittee of the House Ways & Means Committee on March 9, 2020

Annexation

HB 121 City of South Fulton; change corporate boundaries – Reps. Bruce D-61 (Atlanta), Bazemore D-63 (City of South Fulton), Jackson D-64 (City of South Fulton), Boddie D-62 (East Point) and Beasley-Teague D-65 (Fairburn): 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.

Recommitted to Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee

Annexation - **SUPPORT**

HB 867 Local government; county operated airport property – Reps. Martin R-49 (Alpharetta), Dollar R-45 (Marietta), Jones R-47 (Milton): This legislation would prohibit a city from annexing a county owned airport unless the county adopts a resolution approving the annexation. This bill was amended to apply to a city with 85 square miles within its corporate limits (previously 125 square miles).

House Governmental Affairs Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute

Local Design Standards - **OPPOSE**

HB 937 Local Design Standards Preempted – Reps. Smith R-133 (Pine Mountain), McCall R-33 (Elberton), Ridley R-6 (Chatsworth): This legislation prohibits cities and counties from regulating any building material, product or construction practice for single-family homes if these are approved in the state minimum standard codes - unless permission from a DCA board is granted. Residential building design standards for aesthetic purposes would not be allowed (even with the DCA board's permission) since the only local building code amendments allowed under current law have to be based solely on local climatic, geologic, topographic, or public safety factors.

House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee Favorably Reported

Development Authorities

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<u>HB 837</u> Fulton County Development Authority Limitations – Reps. Martin R-49 (Alpharetta), Jones R-47(Milton), Jones R-25 (South Forsyth)	This legislation prohibits county development authorities, in counties where at least 95% of the land area is incorporated, from acquiring property titles, undertaking projects and granting tax abatements without the approval of the board of education or municipality where the property, project, or abatement is located. This legislation currently only applies to Fulton County.	Referred to House Ways & Means Committee
<u>HB 986</u> Local government; members of a county or municipal governing authority appointed as directors of development authorities shall not serve as chairpersons or chief executive officers of such authorities – Reps. D. Jackson D-64 (City of South Fulton), Bazemore D-63 (City of South Fulton), Bruce D-61 (Atlanta)	This legislation prohibits a county commissioner who sits on a development authority from serving as the chairperson or chief executive officer of the authority. The bill also requires that county development authorities for “massively municipalized” counties obtain the consent of certain municipalities and school systems to acquire property or undertake projects within such municipalities. This legislation currently only applies to Fulton County.	Referred to House Governmental Affairs Committee

PROTECT AIR QUALITY - SUPPORT

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Bill #/Author	Description	Status
HB 774 Unpermitted Release of Ethylene Oxide – Reps. Allen D-40 (Smyrna), Wilkerson D-38 (Powder Springs), Dreyer D-59 (Atlanta)	This legislation requires the reporting of any unpermitted release of ethylene oxide to the Environmental Protection Division via email within 24 hours of release discovery and requires public notification of such releases by the Environmental Protection Division on their website.	Referred to House Natural Resources & Environment Committee
HB 927 Reporting Requirement For Any Spill or Release of Ethylene Oxide – Reps. Parsons R-44 (Marietta), Cooper R-43 (Marietta), Reeves R-34 (Marietta)	<p>This legislation requires any spill or release of ethylene oxide (regardless of the amount) be reported to the Georgia Environmental Protection (EPD) within 24 hours of discovering the release.</p> <p>Similar Legislation SB 426: <i>Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute</i></p>	House Natural Resources & Environment Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute
HB 938 Permit Requirements for Facilities that Emit Ethylene Oxide – Reps. Allen D-40 (Smyrna), Trammell D-132 (Luthersville), Dickerson D-113 (Conyers)	This legislation establishes conditions for permits for facilities that emit ethylene oxide that includes providing proof to EPD that equipment has been installed that can detect and monitor ethylene oxide emissions from each exhaust point at the facility. In addition, the facility would be required 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 required to be submitted to EPD 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 the facility is located.	Referred to House Natural Resources & Environment Committee

Legal Organ Advertisement Requirements - **SUPPORT**

SB 406 Legal Organ; Modify Legal Advertisement Requirements – Senators Anderson R-24 (Grovetown), Black R-8 (Valdosta), Walker III R-20 (Perry): This bill authorizes counties to post legal advertisements on their county website, the legal organ’s website, or a common statewide website in addition to the required paid post in the county’s legal organ. The legal organ would still get paid to run the advertisement and all other current conditions in law would apply. However, should the legal organ delay or fail to post the notice in print, any of the aforementioned outlets would serve as adequate notice to the public. Current state law allows for no other recourse if a legal organ fails to run a legal advertisement.

Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

Local Cybersecurity Reporting - **SUPPORT**

HB 1049 Cybersecurity; Required Reporting, Discuss in Executive Session and Exempt from Open Records – Representatives Momtahan R-17 (Dallas), Parsons R-44 (Marietta), Hitchens R-161 (Rincon): This bill requires local governments to report (to the state director of emergency management) any cyber attack incident, data breach or identified use of malware that "creates a life-safety event; substantially impacts the security of data and information systems; or affects critical systems, equipment or service delivery". It also authorizes any portion of a local government meeting that discusses or votes upon a cybersecurity issue to be held in executive session. Lastly, it exempts local government records, data and information concerning cybersecurity from the Open Records Act.

House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY - **SUPPORT**

SB 322 Development Impact Fees; Optional Exemption for Affordable Housing – Senators Ginn R-47 (Danielsville), Miller R-49 (Gainesville), Orrock D-36 (Atlanta): This bill would authorize counties and cities to waive development impact fees for developments that provide affordable housing.

Senate Passed (54-1); Referred to House Governmental Affairs Committee

Homestead Exemptions

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<u>SB 380</u> Fulton County school district; new homestead exemption – Senators Albers R-56 (Roswell), Beach R-21 (Alpharetta), Kirkpatrick R-32 (Marietta)	This bill provides a new homestead exemption from Fulton County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes for county residents older than 65 years in the amount of 50 percent of the assessed value of a person's homestead when such person has owned his or her homestead for at least 30 years but less than 40 years, but not to exceed \$1,000.00 less than the amount of such tax owed; 70 percent of the assessed value of a person's homestead when such person has owned his or her homestead for at least 40 years but less than 50 years, but not to exceed \$2,000.00 less than the amount of such tax owed; and 90 percent of the assessed value of a person's homestead when such person has owned his or her homestead for 50 years or longer, but not to exceed \$3,000.00 less than the amount of such tax owed.	Referred to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
<u>SB 495</u> Ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes; Union City Homestead Exemption – Senator James D-35 (Atlanta)	This bill provides for a homestead exemption from City of Union City ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$2,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city.	Referred to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee

Taxation

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Bill #/Author	Description	Status
HB 779 TAVT; revise distribution of the proceeds of such taxes among local governments – Reps. Blackmon R-146 (Bonaire), Williamson R-115 (Monroe), Carson R-46 (Marietta)	For vehicles registered to an address within city limits, this bill would change the distribution of the local share of title ad valorem taxes (TAVT). The county and city shares would reverse from their current percentages: the county would receive 23% (currently 28%) and the city would receive 28% (currently 23%). The school system would continue to get 49%, unless the city has a municipal school system. In that case, the city receives 49%, the school system receives 28%, and the county would receives 23%. The distribution of the local share of TAVT for vehicles registered to an unincorporated address does not change (51% county, 49% schools).	House Passed (157-1); Senate Finance Committee Favorably Reported
HB 846 Interest on Taxes and Direct Sales Tax Pay Permits for Certain Industries – Reps. Corbett R-174 (Lake Park), Harrell R-106 (Snellville), Carson R-46 (Marietta)	This bill would lower the interest rate payable on tax refunds, as well as past-due taxes, to the prime rate (currently, prime rate plus 3%). The bill would further establish rules for direct pay permits for certain industries, allowing those companies to directly pay to the Dept. of Revenue sales taxes on their business purchases (rather than paying sales taxes to vendors who then remit those taxes).	House Passed By Substitute (148-3); Referred to Senate Finance Committee

Resolutions

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<u>HR 933</u> House Study Committee on Homeowners' Associations, Condominium Owners' Associations, and Property Owners in Community Associations – Reps. Boddie D-62 (East Point), Gravley R-57 (Douglasville), Bruce D-51 (Atlanta)	This resolution creates the House Homeowners' Associations, Condominium Owners' Associations, and Property Owners in Community Associations. Committee members are charged to undertake a study of the needs, issues, and problems associated with how these 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.	House Special Rules Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute
<u>HR 1163</u> All House Road Naming and Dedication Resolutions – Reps. Gambill R-15 (Cartersville), Scoggins R-14 (Cartersville), Kelley R-16 (Cedartown)	<u>HR 1268</u> Dedicate Emma Darnell Memorial Interchange – Reps. Beasley-Teague D-65 (Red Oak), Boddie D-62 (East Point), Thomas D-56 (Atlanta): This resolution recognizes the life of Emma Darnell and dedicates the interchange at Interstate 85 with Interstate 285 in Fulton County as the Emma Darnell Memorial Interchange has been added to this resolution.	House Transportation Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute

Advocacy Days at the State Capitol

- The Fulton County Library System participated in Georgia Public Library Day at the Capitol on March 10, 2020.
- At the invitation of the GA Department of Economic Development, Fulton Government TV participated in Film Day at the Capitol on March 11, 2020.



Adjournment Calendar

- A new Adjournment Resolution was passed on Crossover Day to establish the 2020 legislative calendar through Day 40.
- Legislative Day 40 is scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2020.