



FULTON COUNTY 2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Department of External Affairs – March 17, 2021



**ENSURE NECESSARY COVID-19 RESPONSE
RESOURCES**

**ENSURE AUTONOMY FOR
FULTON COUNTY AIRPORT**

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

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

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

ENSURE SECURE & ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS

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

SUPPORT CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

SIMPLIFY HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

**SUPPORT HOUSING SOLUTIONS &
AFFORDABILITY**

SUPPORT HOMEOWNER PROTECTIONS



**FULTON
COUNTY**

2021
State Legislative
Update



Legislative Priorities

COVID-19

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 112 COVID-19 Liability: Extend Business and Government Immunity until 2022 – Rep. Kelley R-16 (Cedartown)	This bill extends protections for limited liability claims passed in the 2020 "Georgia Pandemic Business Safety Act" for one year through July 14, 2022. The Act provides that businesses, health care providers, and local governments cannot be sued for the transmission, infection, exposure or potential exposure of COVID-19 unless the local government, business, or other entity was grossly negligent, engaged in willful and wanton misconduct, or recklessly or intentionally inflicted harm.	House Passed (99-68)
HB 290 Right to Visit Act – Rep. Setzler R-35 (Acworth)	This bill requires hospitals and long-term care facilities to allow a legal representative of a patient staying for more than 12 hours to visit the patient's bedside at least one hour daily, including during a declared public health emergency.	House Passed by Substitute (113-57)
HB 653 Georgia Pharmacy Practice Act – Rep. Jasperse R-11 (Jasper)	This bill allows pharmacists at a pharmacy or other facility to continue to conduct COVID-19 tests for 12 months after the end of the public health emergency declared by the United States secretary of health and human services.	House Passed by Substitute (170-0)
SB 46 Authorize Emergency Medical Technicians to Administer Vaccines – Sen. Burke R-11 (Bainbridge)	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.	On Second Read - House Health and Human Services

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.	House Passed (154-0); Referred to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations
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.	House Passed (168-0); Referred to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations
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.	Senate Adopted By Substitute (41-8); First Read in House Transportation 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 Did NOT Pass: 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 Did NOT Pass: 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)

Omnibus Elections – House of Representatives

- **HB 531 Elections; Omnibus Bill – Rep. Fleming R-121 (Harlem):** Bill highlights include:
 - Mobile voting unit restrictions - use in emergency situations to supplement existing polling places
 - No election superintendents or boards of registrars can accept private funding
 - Absentee ballot drop box deployed by population formula (1 box per every 100K voters); inside polling site
 - Absentee application ID requirements (eliminates signature match)
 - Weekend Advance Voting: Between 9am - 5pm on either the third Saturday or third Sunday prior to Election Day
 - Schedules run-off elections four weeks after election
 - SOS will serve as ex-officio, non-voting member of State Election Board; new nonpartisan chairperson elected by Legislature
 - Bans non-governmental grant funding
 - Disqualifies provisional ballots cast at wrong precinct

Includes five of ACCG's election priorities listed below: [ACCG Summary](#)

- Allowing county flexibility in reducing the 1/250 voting machine mandate in certain elections
- Authorizing poll workers to serve in an adjoining county from where they live or are employed
- Changing the absentee ballot application receipt deadline (second Friday before Election Day)
- Allowing counties to start processing and scanning absentee ballot earlier
- Authorizing counties to employ absentee ballot drop boxes, which is currently not in the GA Code

House Passed by Substitute (97-72)

Omnibus Elections – Senate

- **SB 241 Elections and Voting; revise comprehensively – Sen. Dugan R-30 (Carrollton)** Bill highlights:
 - Attorney General Voter Hotline for voter intimidation and illegal election complaints
 - Weekend Early Voting 9am – 4pm (not required if no federal candidates)
 - Mobile voting units used in emergencies only—Superior Court Judge approval within 2,640 feet of the existing polling place and with same disability accommodations
 - Absentee ballots only available to voters age 65 +, voters w/disability or who will be out of town on Election Day
 - Absentee ballot application ID requirements; daily reporting to SOS Office
 - Begin scanning (but not tallying) Absentee ballot on second Monday before Election
 - Eligible voters who are in detention centers may be allowed to vote by Absentee ballot
 - Low-performing Superintendents may be removed by State Elections Board if remediation fails (language from Senate approved SB 89)
 - Poll hours are not permitted to be extended except by order of a judge upon good cause
 - Emergency rules by State Elections Board may be overturned by Senate/House Judiciary Comm.

ACCG Summary

Senate Passed by Substitute (29-20)

Local Legislation

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<u>HB 660</u> MARTA; venue for actions against the authority or relative to revenue bonds – Representatives Oliver D-82 (Decatur)	This local legislation amends an Act known as the "Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965," approved March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p. 2243), as amended, so as to provide the venue for actions against the authority or relative to revenue bonds to be brought in either State or Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia. Any action pertaining to validation of any bonds issued under the provisions of this Act shall likewise be brought in said court, which shall have exclusive, original jurisdiction of such actions.	On Second Read - House Transportation Committee
<u>HB 732</u> City of Atlanta Independent School District ad valorem tax exemption; remove sunset date – Rep. Dreyer D-59 (Atlanta)	This local legislation provides a homestead exemption from City of Atlanta Independent School District ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in the amount of \$15,000.00.	On Second Read - House Intergovernmental Coordination Committee



Other Bills That Have Crossed Over

Administrative

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 98 Public Hearings: Authorize by Teleconference – Rep. Lumsden R-12 (Armuchee)	This bill authorizes counties and cities to conduct public hearings by teleconference during declared public emergencies. Persons or agencies who participate by teleconference must be treated as fully participating, as if they were physically attending the meeting.	House Passed by Substitute (162-0)
HB 150 Locals 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.	House Passed (103-62); Referred to Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee
HB 435 Bids; Public Works Construction Projects Exception – Rep. Anderson R-10 (Cornelia)	Current law requires all local government public works construction contracts valued at over \$100,000 to go out for public bid. This bill allows an exception for contracts that were competitively procured by the state or through a cooperative purchasing organization, certified by the state as a source of supply.	House Passed by Substitute (157-9)
HB 465 Prohibit Local Governments from Issuing Civil Fines for False Alarms – Rep. Gullet R-19 (Dallas)	This bill prohibits local governments from imposing civil penalties upon an alarm systems contractor for a false alarm that occurs through no fault of the alarm systems contractor. In cases where the alarm system contractor was in compliance with such provisions, a local government may require that individual property owner responsible for the false alarm pay for or be responsible for any fines, fees, or other penalties relative to false alarms.	House Passed by Substitute (113-52)

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)	This legislation allows local governments to discuss matters related to cybersecurity services in executive session—exempting the discussion from open meeting requirements. Additionally, this bill exempts certain cybersecurity documents from open records requirements.	House Passed (170-0)
<u>HB 156</u> Locals Must Report Cyber Attacks, Executive Session and Open Records – Rep. Parsons R-44 (Marietta)	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.	House Passed (163-0)
<u>SB 52</u> Cybersecurity; Affirmative Defense to Liability for Businesses – Sen. Thompson R-14 (White)	This bill provides standards for cybersecurity programs to protect businesses from liability while providing for affirmative defenses for data breaches of private information.	Senate Passed by Substitute (31-18)

CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 138 Landlords must Provide Summary of Crimes Committed to Tenants – Rep. Mainor D-56 (Atlanta)	This bill requires each county and municipal law enforcement agency to post on the agency's website on a monthly basis a summary or listing of certain crimes which were reported to or investigated by such law enforcement agency that occurred on or in certain property which is used as an apartment building or apartment complex. The law enforcement agency shall maintain such reports on its website for a period of at least two years for the information of the public and make paper copies of such information available to the public.	House Passed by Substitute (128-34)
HB 272 Increase Juvenile Court Jurisdiction from Age 17 to Age 18 – Rep. Ballinger R-23 (Canton)	This bill increases Juvenile Court Jurisdiction from Age 17 to Age 18. The bill also creates a ten member Juvenile Offenders Citation Committee.	House Passed by Substitute (113-51)
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.	House Passed by Substitute (157-9)
HB 479 Citizens Arrest Law (repeal and replace) – Rep. Reeves R-34 (Marietta)	This bill repeals the Citizens Arrest Law, removing the current law provision that allows for a private citizen to detain another private citizen on the basis of reasonable suspicion a criminal activity occurred. Exceptions for business owners, retail/restaurant employees and private security officers in the cases of detaining individuals for shoplifting or theft are provided. The bill also authorizes law enforcement officers to make arrests outside of their jurisdiction under certain circumstances.	House Passed (173-0)

CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 488 Magistrate Court Judges Pay Raise – Rep. Scoggins R-14 (Cartersville)	This bill raises the minimum salary of chief magistrates and clerks of magistrate court. For chief magistrates, the new minimum salary is equal to the previous minimum salary, plus previously enacted cost-of-living adjustments, plus an additional five percent raise. Monthly minimums for magistrate court clerks are increased by the same percentage. For counties with a population of 500,000 or more, the new minimum salary, beginning January 1, 2022, will be \$133,106.73.	House Passed (154-7); Referred to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
HB 534 Crimes and offenses; promoting illegal drag racing – Rep. Bonner R-72 (Fayetteville)	This bill creates an offense of promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags. The bill sets forth a sentencing and fine structure for those found guilty.	House Passed by Substitute (130-39)
HB 579 Public Safety and Judicial Facilities Act – Rep. Oliver D-82 (Decatur)	This bill would remove the requirement for referendum approval of bonds issued by a county or city Public Safety & Judicial Facilities Authority located within a county that levies a sales tax for a metropolitan area system of public transportation (DeKalb, Fulton, and Clayton). Such authorities are authorized to issue bonds to finance facilities such as detention facilities, court-related facilities, and public safety facilities.	House Passed (169-0)

CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<u>SB 10</u> Jaye Mize Law– 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.	Senate Passed by Substitute (49-2)
<u>SB 105</u> Revision of Early Release Probation in Felony Offenses – Sen. Strickland R-17 (McDonough)	This bill revises the terms by which early release from probation may occur in felony offenses. The legislation also sets the maximum length of probation in a felony offense at 24 months if all conditions of the sentence are met.	Senate Passed by Substitute (53-0)
<u>SB 276</u> County Law Libraries; authorize the charging and collection of law library fees in county recorders' courts and magistrate courts; allow county governing authorities – Sen. Kennedy R-18 (Macon)	This bill allows county governing authorities to authorize the charging and collection of law library fees in county recorders' courts and magistrate courts by ordinance or resolution.	Senate Passed (40-13)

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 in roughly 30 counties also serve as elections superintendents and if they become unable to serve, the chief probate clerk would certify the election. For this reason, this legislation mandates that all chief probate clerks must be sworn.	House Passed (172-0)
<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.	House Passed (104-61)

Economic Development

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 544 State government; change composition of the board of directors of the lottery – Rep. Powell R-32 (Hartwell)	This bill amends Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., relating to lottery for education, so as to change the composition of the board of directors of the lottery.	House Passed by Substitute (110-54)
SB 142 Gambling; Legalize Sports Betting – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)	This bill legalizes online sports betting in the state through the Georgia Lottery Corporation. Gamblers must be at least 21 years of age and the proceeds will be used to supplement improvements and enhancements for Georgia’s education purposes and programs.	Senate Passed by Substitute (34-17)
SR 135 Constitutional Amendment; Sports Betting – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)	This proposed constitutional amendment authorizes sports betting in Georgia.	Senate Adopted by Substitute (41-10)

Elections

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
SB 40 Elections; Begin Processing and Scanning Absentee Ballots Earlier – Sen. Jordan D-6 (Atlanta)	This bill mandates local election offices to begin processing and scanning (not tabulating) absentee ballots on the second Monday prior to an election.	Senate Passed by Substitute (53-0)
SB 62 Elections; name and designation of the precinct appears on every ballot – Sen. Tippins R-37 (Marietta)	This bill requires that the specific name and designation of the precinct be printed on all primary, general, nonpartisan, and run-off election ballots. County registrars must keep track of who has been issued absentee ballots as well as the date sent, whether such ballot has been returned, whether the ballot has been accepted and the current status of the ballot. Upon the conclusion of counting, absentee ballots shall be sorted and stored by precinct in sealed containers.	Senate Passed (37-15)
SB 67 Elections; Submission of Absentee Ballot Application ID – Sen. Walker III R-20 (Perry)	This bill requires voters to submit their date of birth and Georgia driver's license number or personal ID number or a copy of photo ID with their absentee ballot application. The SOS 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.	Senate Passed by Substitute (35-18)

Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
SB 72 Elections; Mandates monthly updates to election officials of voters who have died – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga)	This bill requires county election offices to obtain, monthly, from the county coroner, judge of the probate court and all funeral homes in the county a list of all persons who died during the previous month. This list shall be provided to the county free of charge. Counties would have to remove deceased persons from the voting rolls.	Senate Passed (48-5)
SB 74 Elections; Expand 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, in order to provide for the security of the ballots and to prevent tabulating interference, by the election superintendent is allowed but should be minimal.	Senate Passed (36-18)
SB 89 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.	Senate Passed by Substitute (35-18)

Elections

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<u>SB 184</u> Elections; Revise time for inputting credit for voting data – Sen. Cowsert R-46	This bill shortens the time period the board of registrars shall enter into the state-wide voter registration system credit for voting by qualified electors to the Secretary of State from 60 days to 30 days for the purpose of maintaining the list of electors and voter history. For each day beyond 30 days, such board shall be subject to a fine of \$100.00 per day by the State Election Board.	Senate Passed (37-15)
<u>SB 188</u> Elections; election results reporting system – Sen. Cowsert R-46 (Athens)	This bill requires the Secretary of State to establish and maintain an election results reporting system for primary, general and runoff elections. The system shall provide for the entry of the number of ballots cast by type in each precinct, the results of state and federal races by precinct, the number of absentee ballots issued and returned, the number of absentee ballots certified, the number of absentee ballots rejected, the number of provisional ballots cast, and other information the SOS deems relevant to be made available to the public.	Senate Passed (34-18)
<u>SB 253</u> Elections; notice when polling places are relocated – Sen. Merritt D-9 (This bill requires election superintendents to notify electors of a change in a polling place during the seven days before and on the date of the first election following the change. In addition, the notices already required in state law must also include directions to the new polling place and that at least one notice placed at the previous polling place be a minimum of six feet by six feet in size.	Passed by Substitute (53-0)

Public Health

Bill/Author	Description	Status
SB 95 Public Hearings: Authorize by Teleconference – Sen. Ginn R-47 (Danielsville)	This bill authorizes counties and cities to conduct public hearings by teleconference during emergency conditions. Participation by teleconference means full participation as if members 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.	On Second Read; House Government Affairs
HB 370 Term Limits for Joint Hospital Authority Members – Rep. Jones R-47 (Milton)	This bill states that no person shall serve as a member of a joint hospital authority for more than three consecutive terms, including any partial term, or 12 years, whichever is longer.	House Passed (105-59)
SB 164 HIV Tests; modernization of HIV related laws to align with science provide – Sen. Hufstetler R-57 (Rome)	This bill amends Code Section 15-11-471, Title 16, and Code Section 31-22-9.1 of the O.C.G.A., relating to definitions relative to juvenile delinquency, crimes and offenses, and who may perform HIV tests, respectively, so as to provide for the modernization of HIV related laws to align with science to ensure that laws and policies support current understanding of best public health practices for preventing and treating HIV, scientific evidence about routes of transmission, and the public health goals of promoting HIV prevention and treatment; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.	House Passed (50-2)
SB 256 County Boards of Health; comprehensive reorganization – Sen. Burke R-11	This bill clarifies that the Department of Public Health Commissioner has the authority to appoint and supervise District Health Directors. Current law requires the approval of the county board of health.	Senate Passed by Substitute (37-14)

Taxation

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 317 Excise tax; revise definition of innkeeper to include marketplace facilitators; provisions – Rep. Stephens R-164 (Savannah)	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 Airbnb 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 with up to 10 percent of the fees collected to be appropriated for transit projects.	House Passed by Substitute (147-22)
HB 374 Sales Tax: Exemption for Public Water/Sewer Authorities – Rep. Gaines R-117 (Athens)	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.	House Passed (164-0)
SB 6 "Tax Credit Return on Investment Act of 2021" – Sen. Albers R-56 (Roswell)	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.	Senate Passed

Prohibition of Police Budget Cuts

- **HB 286 Restrict Counties from Reducing Police Department Budget – Representatives Gaines R-117 (Athens), Kelley R-16 (Cedartown), Dempsey R-13 (Rome) and others:** This bill restricts city and county governments from reducing the police department's budget by more than 5% unless specified conditions exist.

House Passed by Substitute (101-69); Referred to Senate Government Oversight Committee

Resolutions

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<u>HR 186</u> Joint Medicaid Sustainability Study Comm. – Rep. Buckner D-137 (Junction City)	This bill creates an 11 member Joint Medicaid Sustainability Study Committee to study Medicaid program issues in order to ensure sustainability in Georgia.	On Second Read - House Health & Human Services Committee
<u>HR 204</u> City of Savannah; Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr. Juvenile Justice Center – Rep. Gilliard D-162 (Garden City)	This resolution recognizes Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr., and dedicates a building in his memory; and for other purposes.	House Adopted (171-0)
<u>SR 102</u> Georgia Commission on E-Commerce and Freight Infrastructure Funding – Sen. Gooch R-51 (Dahlonega)	This resolution creates the Georgia Commission on E-Commerce and Freight Infrastructure Funding. The resolution references the work of the 2019-2020 Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics and states that a professional study is needed to determine the best course of action regarding funding and policy development relating to freight and logistics.	Senate Adopted (54-0)



Bills That Did Not Cross Over

Key Bills That Did **NOT** Pass

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. Reports would be made publicly available on GA EPD's website twice a year.</p> <p><i>Companion Bill:</i> SB 180 Ethylene Oxide; certain conditions for permits – Sen. Jordan D-6 (Atlanta); Referred to Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee</p>	On Second Read – House Natural Resources & Environment Committee
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 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> ACCG: Support</p>	On Second Read - Ways & Means Committee

Key Bills That Did **NOT** Pass

Bill/Author	Description	Status
<u>HB 77</u> 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
<u>HB 86</u> 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:</i> <u>SB 142</u> Gambling; Legalize Sports Betting – Sen. Mullis R-53 (Chickamauga); Referred to Senate Regulated Industries Committee</p>	House Postponed on 2/25/2021
<u>HB 113</u> 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:</i> <u>SB 149</u> Primaries and Elections; same day registration and voting – Sen. Butler D- 55 (Stone Mountain); Referred to Senate Ethics Committee</p>	On Second Read - Special Committee on Election Integrity

Bills That Did **NOT** Pass

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 66 Tax Abatement: Notification Provided to Counties – Rep. Oliver D-82 (Decatur)	This bill requires development authorities to provide notice of proposed tax abatements to all affected local governments including the school system. This legislation requires that a written notice be delivered to each affected local government and school system at least seven days prior to official approval of the deal. In addition, the notice shall include: an analysis of the project, a listing of the financial incentives that would be provided, and an estimate of the financial impact upon each local government/school system from such financial incentives.	House State & Local Government Subcommittee of Government Affairs Favorably Reported by Substitute
HB 239 Department of Behavioral Health conduct audits of behavioral health providers – Rep. Hutchinson D-107 (Snellville)	This bill provides that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will conduct or coordinate all audits of behavioral health providers to prevent duplication with other agencies.	On Second Read - House Health & Human Services Committee
HB 281 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

Bills That Did **NOT** Pass

Bill/Author	Description	Status
HB 542 Establishment of temporary camping facilities during public health emergency – Rep. Bruce D-61 (Atlanta)	This bill would allow for housing of homeless at unused state campgrounds during a declared public health emergency.	On Second Read - House State Properties Committee
HB 590 Mental health; grant program to establish assisted outpatient treatment programs – Rep. Hogan R-179 (St. Simon's Island)	This bill establishes a three-year assisted outpatient treatment grant program, subject to appropriations, with the full expectation that the program will establish the efficacy of the assisted outpatient treatment model in Georgia and serve as a first step toward full integration of assisted outpatient treatment into the routine activities of community service boards and probate courts across the state. The bill also establishes an eight member assisted outpatient treatment advisory council.	On Second Read - House Health & Human Services Committee

Bills That Did **NOT** Pass

Bill/Author	Description	Status
SB 206 Prospective tenant shall not be refused a rental based on previous eviction during COVID-19 – Sen. Merritt D-9 (Grayson)	This bill provides that a prospective tenant shall not be refused a rental or lease agreement solely based upon a previous eviction during the COVID-19 public health emergency.	Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 171 Safe Communities Act of 2021 – Sen. Robertson R-29 (Cataula)	<p>This bill allows for several new types of lawsuits against counties and would impose various new mandates and limitations on county operations. Highlights include:</p> <p><u>Section 3</u> - This section also allows for lawsuits for monetary claims for injuries/damages against a county or city governing authority that is “grossly negligent by allowing the commission of violence against persons or property during an assembly of two or more persons.”</p> <p><u>Section 6</u> - Provides that any county/city that reduces its law enforcement budget by 30% or more in a year would be subject to the withholding of state funds and state-administered federal funds. This section also states the governing authority of a county or city that intentionally obstructs or interferes with the ability of a county or city law enforcement agency to provide reasonable law enforcement protection during a riot or unlawful assembly shall be civilly liable for any personal injury, death, or property damages proximately caused by the agency's failure to provide reasonable law enforcement protection during the riot/unlawful assembly. County and city sovereign immunity is waived as to such claims for damages.</p>	Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee

Did **NOT** Pass: 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 sweeping changes to the property tax system for counties, cities, and school systems including:
 - Extending the appeal window from 45 days to 180 days
 - Making the Chief Appraiser an elected position
 - Implementing a statewide CPI-based floating homestead exemption.

On Second Read - House Ways & Means Committee

ACCG: Oppose

Resolutions That Did **NOT** Pass

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<u>HR 30</u> 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.	House Withdrawn and Recommitted to Regulated Industries Committee
<u>HR 203</u> CA; Use of Motor Fuel Tax Collections Business – Rep. McLaurin D-51 (Sandy Springs)	This proposed constitutional amendment would broaden the use of funds from motor fuel tax collections by allowing motor fuel funds to be used for "any and all public transportation purposes." Public transportation definition includes: roads, bridges, rails, airports, buses, seaports, and all accompanying infrastructure and services necessary to provide access to these public transportation facilities.	On Second Read - House Transportation Committee
<u>SR 100</u> State-Wide Grand Juries; jurisdiction, powers, and duties – Sen. Gooch R-51 (Dahlonega)	This proposed constitutional amendment mandates state-wide grand juries in cases of Elections crimes upon petition of the Attorney General to the Supreme Court. A state-wide grand jury shall consist of not fewer than 13 nor more than 23 persons. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall designate a superior court judge to act as presiding judge for each state-wide grand jury. The jurisdiction of a state-wide grand jury shall extend throughout the state, and it may investigate and return indictments for crimes committed anywhere within the state. The term of any such state-wide grand jury shall not exceed 12 months.	Senate Tabled

Adjournment Calendar – [HR 264](#)

Wednesday, March 17	Legislative Day 34
Thursday, March 18	Legislative Day 35
Monday, March 22	Legislative Day 36
Tuesday, March 23	Legislative Day 37
Thursday, March 25	Legislative Day 38
Monday, March 29	Legislative Day 39
Wednesday, March 31 (<i>Sine Die</i>)	Legislative Day 40