



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners
March 6, 2024**

**2024 Legislative
Session Update**

Operational Funding for Behavioral Health Crisis Center

Replacement Jail Funding

Equitable Property Tax Appeals Process

Equal Access to Judicial Personnel Benefits

Elections

Effective & Efficient Justice System

Evictions Process Improvements

Expansion of Healthcare & Hospital Access

Definition of Anti-Semitism/Anti-Islamic Hatred

Homeowners Associations Protections & Transparency

Senior Homestead Exemption Simplification

MARTA Board Appointment Parity

National Use of Force Data Collection Participation

Limit Clerk of Superior Court Passport Fees

CROWN Act



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**2024
State Legislative
Agenda**

Legislative Session Overview

- The Amended Fiscal Year 2024 Budget ([House Bill 915](#)) Conference Committee Report was adopted by both Chambers and signed by Governor Brian P. Kemp last week.
- The House Appropriations Committee passed by substitute the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget ([House Bill 916](#)) on Tuesday, March 5 and the bill will be considered by the full chamber on Thursday, March 7; Senate Appropriations subcommittees will begin reviewing recommendations this week.

Fulton Legislative Delegation Overview

- The March 8 Delegation meeting will include an update regarding the Behavioral Health Crisis Center.
- The February 22 Delegation meeting included an update from Registration & Elections.
- Zoom links for the two remaining meetings will be shared with the BOC once available:
 - Friday, March 8: 12 p.m. at CLOB 307 – BHCC Update
 - Thursday, March 21: 4 p.m. at CAP 230



Fulton County Youth Commission at the Capitol

Fulton County Youth Commissioner Nathaniel Dsilva testified before the House Judiciary Committee on February 27 in support of **HB 1296** by Rep. Scott Hilton (48th). This bill addresses online internet safety by requiring social media age verification for minors.



*Status: House Judiciary Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute **Did Not Crossover***

Primary Policy Priority: BHCC Operational Funding

- The House Appropriations Committee adopted the FY25 budget on Tuesday, March 5. The adopted budget included an additional \$1.8M for the Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center.
- We will continue to seek full funding until the final budget is adopted.

Primary Policy Priority: Equitable Property Tax Appeals Process

Senate Bill 349 – Revisions to Ad Valorem Taxation of Property *ACCG Position: SUPPORT*

- Removes the tax estimate from the notice of current assessment and requires exemptions to be shown.
- Adjusts the three-year lock statute so that it only applies when the taxpayer receives a reduction in value on appeal. This will reduce frivolous appeals and save taxpayer dollars.
- Closes a loophole for settlement conferences by requiring the taxpayer to participate and advance their appeal in good faith.
- Adjusts the millage setting process so that as long as the millage rate is not increased, there is only one required advertisement and public hearing in order to adopt the millage rate. It also cleans up the existing form.
- Implements a statewide floating homestead exemption for counties, cities, and schools. It places a cap on increases in value for homesteaded property at no more than 3% per year. For jurisdictions with existing floating homestead exemptions, the taxpayer will receive whichever exemption is the largest: the floating homestead exemption under this bill or the local floating homestead exemption. Existing state and local (non-floating) homestead exemptions will still apply after the floating homestead exemption has been calculated.

Status: Senate Passed by Substitute; Referred to House Ways & Means Committee

Fulton County Priorities

- Equal Access to Judicial Personnel Benefits: [House Bill 643](#) passed the House of Representatives by substitute on February 27 and has been referred to the Senate Retirement Committee. This bill allows state court judges of Fulton County to participate in the county's defined contribution plan in addition to the Georgia Judicial Retirement System.
- Superior Court Judicial Officers – Local legislation is being drafted.
- Evictions Process Improvements: The Georgia Squatter Reform Act ([House Bill 1017](#)) removes the requirement of property owners from having to seek a landlord-tenant form of dispossessory court action for illegal possession of their homes. The bill clarifies and treats the illegal possession of another's residential property as criminal trespassing and authorizes law enforcement to remove squatters after a three-day notification.
- Board of Commissioners Salary Adjustment – Local Legislation Drafted

Fulton County Priorities

<p><u>HB</u> <u>1339</u> CON Revisions Rep. Butch Parrish (158th)</p>	<p>This bill establishes a Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission to advise on issues related to access and quality of healthcare for Georgia's low-income and uninsured populations. The bill also revises certificate of need (CON) requirements and increases the George Rural Health Tax Credit to \$100 Million.</p>	<p>House Passed by Substitute; Referred to Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee</p>
<p><u>SB 533</u> Jail-based competency restoration programs Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)</p>	<p>This bill provides the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) the sole discretion to determine the best treatment route for those deemed incompetent to stand trial. Including an optional jail-based competency restoration program for counties that is a clinical service provided in jails to persons found incompetent to stand trial if there is a mutual agreement entered between sheriffs and DBHDD.</p>	<p>Senate Passed</p>
<p>SB 439 – Atlanta Public Schools Senior Homestead Exemption</p>	<p>This bill would provide for a senior homestead exemption for homeowners age 65 or over earning <\$100,000 annually, applied to the Atlanta Public Schools portion of their tax bills.</p>	<p>Senate & House Passed</p>

Fulton County Priorities

<p>SB 386 Regulation and taxation of sports betting Sen. Clint Dixon (45th)</p>	<p>This bill authorizes and provides for the legalization, regulation, and taxation of online sports betting in Georgia. Sports betting will be administered by the Georgia Lottery Corporation and its proceeds will be allocated to student financial aid programs, including the HOPE college scholarship and Georgia Pre-K programs. State and local sales taxes do not apply to the operation or on the proceeds of sports betting; however, they do apply to the goods and services purchased by licensees while doing business. Effective Date: January 1, 2025.</p>	<p>Referred to House Higher Education Committee</p>
<p>SR 579 Sports Betting CA Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)</p>	<p>This proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the General Assembly to provide by law for sports betting and to provide for proceeds to be used for educational funding for pre-kindergarten and HOPE scholarships, services for gambling addiction, and the advancement and promotion of sports in Georgia.</p>	<p>Senate Passed; Referred to House Higher Education Committee</p>

Legislative Calendar ([HR 978](#)) & Events at the State Capitol

- Thursday, March 7: Legislative Day 31
- Friday, March 8: Legislative Day 32
- Monday, March 11: Legislative Day 33
- Tuesday, March 12: Committee Work Day
- Wednesday, March 13: Legislative Day 34
- Thursday, March 14: Legislative Day 35
- Thursday, March 28: Legislative Day 40 (Sine Die)

- ACCG Legislative Breakfast on **Thursday, March 7**
- Film Day on **Tuesday, March 19**



APPENDIX OF OTHER 2024 LEGISLATION

State and Local Government

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<p>HB 1149 Require local constitutional officers annual report audits Rep. Mesha Mainor (56th)</p>	<p>This bill requires the annual audit reports of counties to include the financial condition of the discretionary funds of each county officer under the county governing authority including the probate judge, tax commissioner, clerk of court and sheriff.</p>	<p>House Passed By Substitute</p>
<p>HB 1188 Peace Officers: Reimbursement of Total Training Expenses by a Subsequent Employer Rep. Jodi Lott (131st)</p>	<p>This bill requires any state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies that hire a peace officer from another agency prior to 36 months after their mandated training, must provide reimbursement to that agency for the total cost of training. This reimbursement covers various expenses such as equipment, materials, housing, meals, transportation, and salary incurred during the officer's basic or field training course.</p>	<p>House Passed; Referred to Senate Public Safety Committee</p>
<p>HR 1021 Senior Citizen Volunteer Homestead Exemption - CA Rep. Stephens (164th)</p>	<p>This proposed constitutional amendment allows a local government to adopt an ordinance to allow senior citizens to claim an additional homestead exemption in exchange for volunteer work defined by the local entity. The measure must also be approved by voters. The total value of the exemption may not exceed \$500, and the rate the credit can be earned may not be lower than \$10 per volunteer hour or the state's minimum wage, whichever is higher.</p>	<p>House Passed by Substitute</p>

State and Local Government

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<p>HB 1220 Subject certain companies providing water service to PSC regulation Rep. Trey Rhodes (124th)</p>	<p>This bill places any <u>private</u> company providing water service to 1,000 or more customers under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission (PSC). PSC will have full authority to regulate the rates and prices charged by any company for such service.</p>	<p>House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute <i>Did Not Crossover</i></p>
<p>HB 1225 Revise LOST provisions; negotiations for the distribution of tax proceeds Rep. Chuck Martin (49th)</p>	<p>This bill extends the same provisions that currently apply to absent municipalities in local option sales tax (LOST) negotiations to counties, allowing the county to be absent from the process and receive a population share.</p>	<p>House Ways & Means Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute <i>Did Not Crossover</i></p>
<p>HB 1228 Local government; procedures for the acquisition of certain professional services; provisions Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (18th)</p>	<p>This bill requires all local governments to utilize the qualified-based selection (QBS) process for procuring professional engineering, architectural and landscaping services, with some exceptions.</p>	<p>Referred to House Governmental Affairs Committee <i>Did Not Crossover</i></p>

State and Local Government

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
HB 1407 SDS revisions Rep. John LaHood (175 th)	This bill provides guidelines and requirements for the development and implementation of local government service delivery strategies (SDS) by counties and municipalities. The bill revises the mediation and arbitration processes related to service delivery strategy negotiations.	House Passed by Substitute
SB 361 Open Meetings: More Teleconferences for Commissioners Sen. Greg Dolezal (27 th)	This bill authorizes county commissioners and other local government officials to participate in a meeting via teleconference up to six times per year (currently twice) without having a health excuse or having a declared state of emergency. To do so, a quorum of board members must be present in person.	Referred to Senate Government Oversight Committee <i>Did Not Crossover</i>
SB 390 Certification of Librarians Sen. Larry Walker III (20 th)	This bill creates and allows the Georgia Council of Public Libraries to award certifications for librarians. The bill also prohibits taxpayer funding to American Library Association (ALA) affiliated libraries from Georgia's counties, cities, public schools and other public bodies created under the state Constitution or laws except for privately donated funds for the purpose of supporting an application for accreditation or reaccreditation of a degree program.	Senate Passed By Substitute

Taxation

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<p>HB 1031 Mandatory reappraisal of parcels Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th)</p>	<p>This bill revises ad valorem tax provisions by requiring property reappraisals no less than every three years; Creates an estimated rollback rate. If local governments exceed the estimated rollback, language on the tax bill indicating a tax increase is required; Removes the tax estimate from the notice of current assessment; Limits the three-year lock so it only applies if the taxpayer wins their appeal; and Adjusts the DOAA sales ratio study to avoid potential penalties.</p>	<p>House Passed By Substitute</p>
<p>HB 1120 Limits 3-Year Lock Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd)</p>	<p>This bill restricts the three-year lock statute, so it no longer applies to residential property unless it is a homestead property.</p>	<p>Referred to House Ways & Means Committee <i>Did Not Crossover</i></p>
<p>HB 1185 Statewide homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes when current year assessed value exceeds the inflation rate Rep. Beth Camp (135th)</p>	<p>This bill creates a statewide homestead exemption which local governments may choose to opt into via ordinance without a local act of the General Assembly. The measure must also be approved by voters via a referendum. The homestead exemption will be equal to the amount the current year's assessed value exceeds the previous adjusted base year value. It allows for an inflationary increase in the base-year value based on an inflation rate established by the Georgia Department of Revenue. <i>Constitutional Amendment:</i> HR 1022</p>	<p>House Passed By Substitute; Referred to Senate Finance Committee</p>

Taxation

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
HR 804 Change TAN - CA Rep. Chuck Martin (49 th)	This proposed constitutional amendment changes the payable date of temporary loans for counties and municipalities from December 31 of each year to within 12 months of the initial funding. This allows for a full year before the repayment of a tax allocation note will come due.	Senate Finance Committee Favorably Reported
HR 1041 Adopt alternative method of appraisal and assessment of real property located within the county for taxation - CA Rep. Dale Washburn (144 th)	This proposed constitutional amendment authorizes counties to adopt an alternative method of appraisal and assessment within the county. The new method locks the fair market value at the most recent sale price until a subsequent sale or a substantial construction improvement greater than \$50,000 occurs. This new method applies to all property types including commercial and industrial properties.	House Ways & Means Committee Favorably Reported <i>Did Not Crossover</i>
SB 403 Revise language required to be included in notices of current assessment Sen. Frank Ginn (47 th)	This bill removes the tax estimate from the assessment notice.	Senate Tabled <i>Did Not Crossover</i>
SR 82 Waive certain delinquent ad valorem property taxes - CA Sen. Carden Summers (13 th)	This proposed constitutional amendment allows county and city governing authorities to pass a resolution delegating authority to the tax commissioner to waive delinquent taxes at a tax sale.	Senate Passed By Substitute

Transportation

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
HB 1358 Atlanta-Region Transit Link "ATL" Authority and Georgia Regional Transportation Authority; abolish and transfer all assets to State Road and Tollway Authority Rep. Victor Anderson (10th)	This bill abolishes the Atlanta-Region Transit Link "ATL" Authority and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) and transfers all assets, obligations, liabilities and employees to the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA).	House Transportation Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute <i>Did Not Crossover</i>

Affordable Housing and Homelessness

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
HB 1410 State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Act Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th)	This bill creates the Stable Housing Accountability Program, a voluntary program to help homeless people with addiction issues to secure stable housing while participating in programs that help individuals become healthy, gainfully employed and self-sufficient. The program will be funded by the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless and private sources.	House Passed by Substitute

Elections

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
HB 974 Establish and maintain a state-wide system for the posting of scanned paper ballots Rep. John LaHood (175 th)	This bill requires the secretary of state to maintain a statewide program for the posting of digital images of election ballots. The bill requires a minimum scan resolution of 200 dots per inch (DPI) for scanned paper ballots and 600 DPI, or the highest resolution possible within the certified voting system for scanned absentee ballots.	House Passed By Substitute; Referred to Senate Ethics Committee
HB 976 Visible watermark security feature on ballots Rep. John LaHood (175 th)	This bill requires ballots to be printed on security paper that includes a visible watermark. Ballots cannot be identifiable to a particular elector.	Referred to Senate Ethics Committee
HB 977 Expand number of contests subject to risk-limiting audits Rep. John LaHood (175 th)	This bill sets the risk-limiting audit probability limit at a decreasing percentage beginning with eight percent in 2024 and concluding with a rate of two percent in 2030. HB 977 also mandates counties conduct additional precertification risk-limiting audits on two selected contests following each election. In addition to specified top of the ballot contests, there will be a statewide election selected by a group consisting of the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate Minority Leader and House Minority Leader. County election superintendents are authorized to audit additional races if necessary.	Referred to Senate Ethics Committee
HB 1207 Ballot proofing by elections superintendents Rep. Tim Fleming (114 th)	This bill requires election superintendents to electronically send a ballot proof to candidates appearing on the ballot for the candidates to verify the information within 24 hours of receipt.	House Passed; Referred to Senate Ethics Committee

Elections

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<p>HB 1370 Election Superintendents determine number of voting booths Rep. Buddy DeLoach (167th)</p>	<p>This bill authorizes election superintendents to determine the number of voting booths or enclosures for each election based upon expected turnout, the number of electors who have already voted by advance voting or absentee ballot and other specified conditions.</p>	<p>House Governmental Affairs Committee Favorably Reported <i>Did Not Crossover</i></p>
<p>SB 189 Prohibit QR Codes on Ballots Sen. Max Burns (23rd)</p>	<p>This bill provides that the text portion of the paper ballot will be the official vote for purposes of vote tabulation. Currently, paper ballots marked and printed by electronic ballot markers are official ballots, but QR codes are used for vote tabulation.</p>	<p>Referred to House Governmental Affairs Committee</p>
<p>SB 221 Omnibus Elections Revisions Sen. Max Burns (23rd)</p>	<p>This omnibus bill includes requirements related but not limited to: how residences of electors are established; Changing to an “opt-in” method of registering to vote when obtaining/renewing a driver’s license; Expanding and revising methods of challenging an elector’s eligibility to vote and how counties must respond to challenges; Allowing voters to choose paper ballots by which to vote in person; Prohibiting intimidation of poll officers; and Punishing election superintendents who refuse to call an election.</p>	<p>Senate Ethics Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute <i>Did Not Crossover</i></p>
<p>SB 413 Revise dates for certain special elections Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)</p>	<p>This bill restricts special elections on local sales taxes to occur only on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in any year or concurrent with a presidential preference primary or a general primary. The new sales tax will begin in the next calendar quarter starting at least 50 days after the referendum date instead of the current 80-day requirement.</p>	<p>Senate Ethics Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute <i>Did Not Crossover</i></p>

Public Health

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<p>HB 1035 Authorize board regulates sale and supply of opioid antagonists through vending machines Rep. Sharon Cooper (45th)</p>	<p>This bill allows for the sale and supply of opioid antagonists, such as Naloxone and Narcan, in vending machines. Additionally, persons and harm reduction organizations that dispense, supply, and administer opioid antagonists are immune from liability when acting in good faith.</p>	<p>Senate Health and Human Services Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute</p>
<p>HB 1037 Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health Rep. Lauren Daniel (117th)</p>	<p>This bill creates the Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health to make policy recommendations regarding perinatal care programs and develop quality metrics. The commission will consist of 14 members. A report of findings and recommendations is due on July 1, 2026 and the commission will be repealed.</p>	<p>Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee</p>
<p>HB 1170 Require government buildings to make opioid antagonists accessible Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th)</p>	<p>This bill requires that government buildings, courthouses, and schools with automated external defibrillators provide opioid antagonists to assist in the event of an opioid overdose.</p>	<p>House Passed By Substitute; Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee</p>

Public Health

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<p>HB 1339 CON Revisions Rep. Butch Parrish (158th)</p>	<p>This bill establishes a Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission to advise on issues related to access and quality of healthcare for Georgia's low-income and uninsured populations. The bill also revises certificate of need (CON) requirements and increases the George Rural Health Tax Credit to \$100 Million.</p>	<p>House Passed by Substitute; Referred to Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee</p>
<p>SB 480 Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce; provide student loan repayment Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)</p>	<p>This bill would repay student loans for mental health and substance use professionals serving in certain capacities. Eligibility requirements are outlined in the bill.</p>	<p>Senate Passed</p>
<p>SB 505 Revise required publication by hospital of certain financial documents on its website; provisions; revise Sen. Blake Tillery (19th)</p>	<p>This bill will increase hospital and health system reporting standards and require increased community benefit and indigent care spending to justify nonprofit tax exempt benefits. Hospitals will be required to prominently display their federal disclosures on their websites.</p>	<p>Senate Passed As Amended</p>

Courts and Public Safety

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<p>HB 424 Revise Sheriff qualification requirements Rep. Ken Vance (133rd)</p>	<p>This bill revises the qualification requirements for sheriffs and provides for a sheriff who serves in more than one court to receive salary for up to two courts, and that salary would not be increased by any state cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) or general performance-based increases.</p>	<p>House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute <i>Did Not Crossover</i></p>
<p>HB 909 GBI; restriction and seal of FOA Rep. Leesa Hagan (156th)</p>	<p>This bill requires the restriction and sealing of First Offender Act (FOA) court records at sentencing. Those who were exonerated of guilt and discharged as a first offender prior to July 1, 2024 may petition the court to have the records sealed, and those records will be automatically sealed.</p>	<p>Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee</p>
<p>SB 533 Jail-based competency restoration programs Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)</p>	<p>This bill provides the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) the sole discretion to determine the best treatment route for those deemed incompetent to stand trial. Including an optional jail-based competency restoration program for counties that is a clinical service provided in jails to persons found incompetent to stand trial if there is a mutual agreement entered between sheriffs and DBHDD.</p>	<p>Senate Passed</p>

Sports Betting

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
HR 1136 Sports betting, pari-mutuel betting, and casino gambling CA Rep. James Beverly (143 rd)	This proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the General Assembly to provide by law for sports betting, pari-mutuel betting, and casino gambling. Proceeds are to be used for supporting community enhancement, education, cultural and performing arts, state tourism, local governments, economic development, compulsive gambling assistance, horse racing industries, and payment of state debt and long-term liabilities.	Referred to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee <i>Did Not Crossover</i>
SB 386 Regulation and taxation of sports betting Sen. Clint Dixon (45 th)	This bill authorizes and provides for the legalization, regulation, and taxation of online sports betting in Georgia. Sports betting will be administered by the Georgia Lottery Corporation and its proceeds will be allocated to student financial aid programs, including the HOPE college scholarship and Georgia Pre-K programs. State and local sales taxes do not apply to the operation or on the proceeds of sports betting; however, they do apply to the goods and services purchased by licensees while doing business. Effective Date: January 1, 2025.	Referred to House Higher Education Committee
SR 538 Sports Betting CA Sen. Carden Summers (13 th)	This proposed constitutional amendment will provide by law for sports betting and casino gambling in this state no later than July 2, 2025.	Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute <i>Did Not Crossover</i>
SR 579 Sports Betting CA Sen. Bill Cowsert (46 th)	This proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the General Assembly to provide by law for sports betting and to provide for proceeds to be used for educational funding for pre-kindergarten and HOPE scholarships, services for gambling addiction, and the advancement and promotion of sports in Georgia.	Senate Passed; Referred to House Higher Education Committee