



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners
February 1, 2023**

**2023 State
Legislative Update**

Funding for a Behavioral Health Crisis Center

Equitable Property Tax Appeals Process

Senior Homestead Exemption Simplification

Effective & Efficient Justice System

Equal Access to Judicial Personnel Benefits



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**2023
State Legislative
Agenda**

Legislative Session Overview

- House Appropriations Subcommittees have continued to meet since Joint Appropriations meetings ended on January 19.
- Governor Brian P. Kemp delivered his fifth [State of the State Address](#) to a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly on January 25.

Fulton Legislative Delegation Overview

January 23, 2023 Election Results	
<i>House of Representatives</i>	<i>Senate</i>
Chair: Rep. Park Cannon (58 th)	Chair: Sen. Sonya Halpern (39 th)
Vice-Chair: Rep. Debra Bazemore (69 th)	Vice-Chair: Sen. Josh McLaurin (14 th)
Secretary: Rep. Esther Panitch (51 st)	Secretary: Sen. Horacena Tate (38 th)

- Fulton County will present the 2023 Legislative Agenda at the House Delegation meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 4 p.m. in Room 328 at the Georgia State Capitol.
- Fulton County will present the 2023 Legislative Agenda at the next Senate Delegation meeting: TBD.

Primary Policy Priority: BHCC Funding

- Governor Kemp’s Fiscal Year 2024 Budget includes \$5,688,919 to operate a Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) for adults within Fulton County.
 - We are tracking this funding in the House Appropriations Human Resources Subcommittee
- Fulton County respectfully seeks the full \$13.3 million in funding for this project to meet the growing need for crisis and mental health services in Fulton County.

	Full Funding	Fiscal Year 2024 Budget
Funding Amount	\$13,302,940	\$5,688,919
Number of Beds / Chairs	24 Crisis Stabilization Unit Beds 16 Observation Chairs	15 Crisis Stabilization Unit Beds / 18 Observation Unit Chairs
Funding Per Crisis Bed	\$649	\$649
Funding Per Observation Chair	\$649	\$325 (does not match BHDD proposed funding model)
Enhanced Intake – connecting clients with non-crisis care where possible to maximize efficiency	Included	Not included

Other Fulton County Priorities

- Rep. Roger Bruce (61st) is introducing a bill related to the Equal Access to Judicial Personnel Benefits priority, which will repeal a restriction that disallows Fulton County State Court Judges from accruing benefits on the County only portion of their salary. Rep. Bruce is also sponsoring a secondary priority to allow the Fulton County Probate Court to collect a \$5 technology fee.
- Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) is introducing a bill related to the Senior Homestead Exemption Simplification priority which will eliminate the need for lowest income seniors over the age of 65 to renew their homestead exemption every two years.
- The Fulton County legislative team continues to finalize sponsorship and broad support for bills related to the remaining priorities: Equitable Property Tax Appeals Process and Codification of legal representation for minors in legitimation, dependency and termination cases.

Public Health

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<p>HB 4 Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities, Department of; create and maintain electronic inpatient psychiatric bed registry Rep. Sandra Scott (76th)</p>	<p>This bill requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to create, operate, and maintain an electronic inpatient psychiatric bed registry. The registry shall be a web-based resource to identify available psychiatric beds in Georgia categorized by patient gender, acuity, age, and diagnosis. The registry shall be accessible through the department's website. An advisory committee will be established to provide guidance on the creation, operation, and maintenance of the registry.</p>	<p>House Prefiled</p>
<p>HB 41 Mental health; revise emergency involuntary treatment for mental health and alcohol and drug dependency Rep. Lim Marvin (98th)</p>	<p>This bill requires all court ordered physician's certificates redact and conceal personally identifiable information of the evaluator for all emergency involuntary admissions for mental health and substance abuse patients.</p>	<p>Referred to House Public Health Committee</p>
<p>SB 1 COVID-19: Counties Cannot Require Proof of Vaccination Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)</p>	<p>This bill removes the sunset date of June 30, 2023, extending it indefinitely, for the law passed in 2022 that prohibits local governments from requiring proof of a COVID-19 vaccination in order to receive any government service or access to any facility.</p>	<p>Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee</p>
<p>SB 2 COVID-19: Permanent Liability Protection for Counties Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)</p>	<p>This bill makes COVID-19 liability protection permanent for counties by removing the sunset date for existing law which provides protections to governments and businesses from claims that individuals contracted COVID-19 on their premises.</p>	<p>Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee</p>

State and Local Government

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<p>HB 31 Hazardous Waste Trust Fund Fee Dedication Rep. Debbie Buckner (137th)</p>	<p>This bill dedicates the state's hazardous waste management fee and the hazardous substance reporting fee to the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund (HWTF).</p>	<p>House Withdrawn, Recommitted to Ways and Means Committee</p>
<p>SB 19 Prohibit Collection of passport application and processing fees by clerks of superior courts and probate court judges Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)</p>	<p>This bill prohibits clerks of superior court and probate judges from keeping U.S. passport application processing fees (\$35 authorized by federal law) as personal compensation. Officials must disclose all passport processing fees collected on a quarterly basis to the county governing authority. Half of these fees will go into the county's general fund, and the other half will be retained by the clerk/probate judge for office operations and maintenance. The General Assembly may pass local legislation to change the percentage amounts retained and deposited into the county's general fund. The fees cannot be used to compensate the clerk, probate judge, or their employees, nor purchase any non-work-related items. Charging additional passport processing fees other than those authorized by federal laws or regulations is also prohibited.</p>	<p>Referred to Senate Government Oversight Committee</p>
<p>SB 28 Repeal an Act fixing the compensation of counties with a population in excess of 500,000 Sen. Clint Dixon (45th)</p>	<p>This bill repeals an act that prohibits counties with populations in excess of 500,000 from fixing county commissioners' salaries through local legislation. If passed, these counties must have local legislation passed to adjust commissioners' salaries.</p>	<p>Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations (General) Committee</p>

Taxation

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
HB 42 Ad valorem tax; county tax commissioner duties; revise provisions Rep. Lim Marvin (98th)	This bill provides a three-party contract for the collection of city taxes by the county tax commissioner, to be approved by the county, city, and tax commissioner. The contract will specify services to be provided by the tax commissioner and the compensation to be paid by the city to the county for administrative costs. Additionally, the amount to be paid by the city to the tax commissioner cannot exceed fifty percent of the tax commissioner's minimum annual salary.	Referred to House Ways & Means Committee
HB 90 Ad valorem tax; provisions shall not apply to levying authorities and recommending authorities with base year homestead exemptions; provide Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)	This bill exempts local governments with floating homestead exemptions from the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.	Referred to House Ways & Means Committee

Elections

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
HB 17 Elections; sealing of ballots in secure containers Rep. Alan Powell (33rd)	This bill requires election workers who take custody of ballots to sign for such ballots and to place them in a locked transfer case. Additional chain of custody documentation and procedures are provided to enhance security.	Referred to House Governmental Affairs Committee
HB 48 Elections; district attorneys and solicitors-general of state courts be elected in nonpartisan elections Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th)	This bill amends Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and elections generally, to provide that district attorneys and solicitors-general of state courts shall be elected in nonpartisan elections.	Referred to House Governmental Affairs Committee

Homeowners' Associations

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<p>SB 29 Property Owners' Associations; certificates of good standing for payment of annual assessments; provide Sen. Donzella James (35th)</p>	<p>This bill amends Article 6 of Chapter 3 of Title 44 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to property owners' associations, so as to provide for certificates of good standing for payment of annual assessments; to require associations to offer to participate in alternative dispute resolution prior to the effectuation of a lien on a lot for unpaid assessments; to provide that such a lien shall be inferior to liens for unpaid medical bills; to provide for alternative dispute resolution policies and requirements therefor; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to provide for applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</p>	<p>Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee</p>
<p>SR 37 Senate Property Owners' Associations, Homeowners' Associations, and Condominium Associations Study Committee Sen. Donzella James (35th)</p>	<p>This resolution creates the five member Senate Property Owners' Associations, Homeowners' Associations, and Condominium Associations Study Committee to study fees for property transfers, certification letters, initiation, and similar actions by owners subject to the authority of such associations; discrimination against property owners or prospective property owners; and for other purposes.</p>	<p>Referred to Senate Rules Committee</p>

Resolutions

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<u>HR 9</u> Urge GDOT study of safety and accidents relating to vehicle merging Rep. Debra Bazemore (69th)	This resolution urges the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to study safety and accidents relating to vehicle merging and to consider installing yield signs upon certain merging roadways.	Referred to House Transportation Committee
<u>HR 10</u> House Study Committee on Public Water Systems Serving Disadvantaged Communities Rep. Mandisha Thomas (65 th)	This resolution creates the five member House Study Committee on Public Water Systems Serving Disadvantaged Communities to study the quality of drinking water in small or disadvantaged communities.	Referred to House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee
<u>HR 12</u> Urge Leadership in Georgia's counties; combat housing insecurity and homelessness Rep. Mandisha Thomas (65 th)	This resolution urges leadership in all of Georgia's counties who have reported citizens living in a tent, box, sleeping bag, or other impromptu shelter as a permanent home solution to diligently work with certain nonprofit award recipients to combat housing insecurity and homelessness; and for other purposes.	Referred to House Urban Affairs Committee

Legislative Calendar ([SR 6](#)), Events, & Special Days at the State Capitol

- Thursday, February 2: Legislative Day 12
- Monday, February 6: Legislative Day 13
- Tuesday, February 7: Legislative Day 14
- Wednesday, February 8: Legislative Day 15
- Thursday, February 9: Legislative Day 16
- Monday, March 6: Legislative Day 28 (Crossover Day)
- Wednesday, March 29: Legislative Day 40 (Sine Die)

- Thursday, February 16: [Fulton County Day at the Capitol](#)
- Thursday, March 9: [ACCG Legislative Breakfast](#)

