



**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 presented his State of the State Address 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 next Joint Delegation Meeting.

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
- Serving as a regional facility, the BHCC would offer 15 crisis beds and 18 temporary observation chairs.
- Fulton County attended the Mental Health Policy Caucus meeting on January 25 to advocate for this funding.

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.
- 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 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
<u>HB 4</u> Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities, Department of; create and maintain electronic inpatient psychiatric bed registry Rep. Sandra Scott (76th)	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.	House Prefiled
<u>HB 41</u> Mental health; emergency involuntary treatment for mental health and alcohol and drug dependency; revise procedures Rep. Lim Marvin (98th)	This bill amends Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to mental health, so as to revise procedures regarding emergency involuntary treatment for mental health and alcohol and drug dependency; to require that physician's certificate or affidavits shall be affixed to the court order and become part of the patient's clinical record; and for other purposes.	Referred to House Public Health Committee
<u>SB 1</u> COVID-19: Counties Cannot Require Proof of Vaccination Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)	This bill removes the sunset date of June 30, 2023, for existing law which prohibits local governments from requiring proof of a COVID-19 vaccination in order to receive any government service or access to any facility.	Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee
<u>SB 2</u> COVID-19: Permanent Liability Protection for Counties Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)	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.	Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee

State and Local Government

Bill #/Author	Description	Status
<u>HB 31</u> Hazardous Waste Trust Fund Fee Dedication Rep. Debbie Buckner (137th)	This bill dedicates the state's hazardous waste management fee and the hazardous substance reporting fee to the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund (HWTF).	Referred to House Appropriations Committee
<u>HB 42</u> Ad valorem tax; county tax commissioner duties; revise provisions Rep. Lim Marvin (98th)	This bill revises provisions concerning the duties of county tax commissioners with respect to the assessment and collection of municipal taxes and fees.	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, so as to provide that district attorneys and solicitors-general of state courts shall be elected in nonpartisan elections.	Referred to House Governmental Affairs Committee

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

