



Bills passed in the GA General Assembly Final Week

HB 3 - Death penalty cases; Supreme Court; pretrial proceedings; extend review period

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 323 alters O.C.G.A. § 17-10-35.1 which provides that a judge presiding over a case where the death penalty is sought may request the Supreme Court to review pretrial proceedings. The issues the Court reviews include venue, whether recusal of the trial judge is appropriate, challenge to the jury array, any motion to suppress evidence, motion for psychiatric and medical evaluation and any other matter deemed appropriate by the Court. Currently, the Supreme Court must issue an order granting or denying review within 20 days of receipt of the request. The only change in the bill is that the Court would have 45 days rather than 20 days.
- Authored By: Rep. David Ralston of the 7th
- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 23 - Motor vehicles; cell phones; text messaging; prohibit use

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 23 prohibits the use of cell phones and similar electronic devices by class D driver's license holders under the age of eighteen. Penalties for violation include a fine of not more than \$100 and not less than \$50 as well as 2 points on the offender's driving record. The Senate Public Safety Committee substitute to HB 23 makes violation of its provisions a flat \$150 fine. It changes the point accumulation on the license to 1 point from 2. And, finally, it removes the automatic suspension of the license if the driver is involved in an accident.
- Authored By: Rep. Matt Ramsey of the 72nd
- House Committee: Motor Vehicles
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 207 - Off-road vehicles; operating restrictions; change certain provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 207 prohibits the operation of Off Road Vehicles (ORV) in navigable and non-navigable streams of this state, except when directly crossing the stream. The Senate Natural Resources Committee's substitute to HB 207 changes "navigable and non-navigable" to "perennial" and defines such term. Further, it gives the Probate Court jurisdiction over violations of OCGA 40-7

(off road vehicle statutes), as well as the ability to give civil penalties for such violations.

- Authored By: Rep. Chuck Sims of the 169th
- House Committee: Motor Vehicles
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 258 - Driver's license; minor of disabled guardian; restricted learner's permit; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 258 relates to the qualifications for a driver's license, so as to allow a minor of a permanently disabled guardian or parent to obtain a restricted learner's permit at the age of 14.
- Authored By: Rep. Austin Scott of the 153rd
- House Committee: Motor Vehicles
- Yeas: 151; Nays: 1
- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

HB 333 - Georgia Building Authority; exempt from certain sales and use tax; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill exempts the Georgia Building Authority from the payment of sales and use taxes.
- Authored By: Rep. David Knight of the 126th
- House Committee: State Institutions & Property
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 321 - Insurance Delivery Enhancement Act of 2009; enact

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 321 relates to "group accident and sickness insurance" defined and "true association" defined.
- Authored By: Rep. Steve Davis of the 109th
- House Committee: Insurance
- Yeas: 128; Nays: 25
- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

HB 329 - Probated or suspended sentences; maximum period of revocation; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 329 amends O.C.G.A. § 42-8-34.1 by providing that if a probationer commits an offense in another state which is a misdemeanor in that state, but would be a felony in Georgia, the judge is authorized to consider the offense according to Georgia's code and revoke probation. Different penalties are available when a probationer commits a misdemeanor or violates a general provision of his probation than if he commits a felony; the maximum of which is two years confinement. O.C.G.A. § 42-8-34.1(c). When a probationer commits a

felony, the court may revoke the balance of probation. O.C.G.A. § 42-8-34.1(d). This bill clarifies that judges will be able to treat an act that would be a felony in Georgia according to the same revocation rules as though the act was committed in Georgia.

- Authored By: Rep. Rich Golick of the 34th
- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 396 - Drivers' licenses; driving record; uniform traffic citations; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 396 is a "housekeeping" bill for the Department of Driver's Services. Its purpose is to prepare Georgia to be compliant with the requirements of the federal REAL Id Act.
- Authored By: Rep. Tom Graves of the 12th
- House Committee: Motor Vehicles
- Yeas: 149; Nays: 6
- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

HB 400 - Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy Act; enact

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation is known as the "Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy Act". This Act develops programs to improve graduation rate; improves preparedness of students for postsecondary education and careers; provides for the development of focused programs of study; provide for model programs for students at risk of dropping out of high school; train school counselors and graduation coaches to provide for educational counseling and career awareness programs for students, establish a reform grant program, require local school systems which receive a reform grant to comply with certain requirements; provide for high school completion rate goals in the state accountability system; provide for rules and regulation; provide for exemptions from certain portions of the high school graduation test and end-of-year assessments.

20-2-325 This part shall be known as the "Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy Act"

20-2-326 Terms:

- Articulation: agreement between high school and postsecondary schools to award both credit for dual enrollment
- Career academy: specialized charter established by local board education, technical, & small learning community
- Choice Technical High School: prepare highs to postsecondary for career and operates as charter
- Chronically low-performing high: graduation rate is less than 60% for 3

consecutive yrs.

- Focused Program of Study: Academic courses & focus in math & science, humanities, fine arts, foreign language, career pathway courses for immediate employment

- Graduation Plan: necessary plan developed to transition to postsecondary education & work force

- Industry certification: programs meet industry standards

- Small Learning Community: small autonomous learning center w/in high school, greater personalization with learning, career readiness standards

- Technical school/college: any institution under Technical College System of Georgia

20-2-237 The Department of Education shall develop focused programs of study in high demand, high skill, and high wage academic and career fields in accordance with a phase-in schedule as determined by the state board. The focused programs of study may include:

- Aerospace

- Healthcare

- Agribusiness

- Life Science

- Energy & Environmental

- Logistics & Transportation

- Information & Technology

- Teacher Education Training

- Technology & Engineering

- Science & Mathematics

- Humanities & Fine Arts

The department shall include in the focused programs of study the flexibility for a student to pursue courses at the school of attendance, at a technical school, or college. For each focuses program of study identified, the department shall convene a committee which includes high school teachers; school counselors; representatives from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, and employers; and other as deemed appropriate by the department. Student performance at the advanced proficiency/honors level on any assessments

required for purposes of high school graduation shall be recognized as:

1. Meeting post secondary entrance test requirements

2. Qualifying students to enroll in credit-bearing postsecondary course work in accordance with policies and requirements established by the State Board of Education, the Board of Regents of the University System, and the State Board of Technical and Adult Education. Secondary and Postsecondary credit shall be awarded immediately upon successful completion of any articulation or dual enrollment course in accordance with policies and requirements. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, students in the 6th, 7th, & 8th grades shall be provided counseling, advisement, career awareness, career interest inventories,

and information to assist them in evaluating their academic skills and career interests. The Department of Education shall provide training for school counselors and graduation coaches about high demand, high skill, and high wage opportunities

for bachelor's degrees, associate's degrees, and certificates, how a combination of rigorous academic and technical courses can prepare students for these fields, and how to organize a teacher adviser system that engages teachers in working with a core group of students and their parents or guardians in setting goals, identifying individual programs of study, and establishing individual graduation plans to achieve those goals. No later than July 1, 2011, the State Board of

Education, in collaboration with the Technical College System of Georgia, shall establish a process for certifying all focused programs of study receiving state funds by using national certifying agencies where they exist and developing state industry-certifying panels in career pathways where no national certifying agency exists.

20-2-328 High Schools that receive a reform grant shall:

1. Provide focused programs of study which are designed to provide a well-rounded education for students by fostering artistic creativity, critical thinking, and self-discipline through the teaching of academic content, knowledge, and skills that students will use in the workplace, further education, and life.
2. Implement a teacher adviser system where an individual professional educator in the school assists a small group of students and their parents or guardians throughout the students' high school careers to set postsecondary goals and help them prepare programs of study, utilizing assessments and other data to track academic progress on a regular basis; communicates frequently with parents or guardians; and provides advisement, support, and encouragement as needed
3. Provide students in the ninth through twelfth grades information on educational programs offered in high school, in technical and community colleges, in colleges and universities, and through apprenticeship programs and how these programs can lead to a variety of career fields
4. Enroll students no later than tenth grade into one of the following options for earning a high school diploma and preparing students for postsecondary education and a career which will include a structured program of academic study with in-depth studies in:
 - l Mathematics and science;
 - l Humanities, fine arts, and foreign language; or
 - l A career pathway that leads to passing an employer certification exam in a high demand, high skill, or high wage career field or to an associate's degree or bachelor's degree.
5. Implement the at-risk model program developed by the State Board of Education

6. Comply with the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education for chronically lowperforming high schools
7. Schedule annual conferences to assist parents or guardians and their children in setting educational and career goals and creating individual graduation plans beginning with students in the eighth grade and continuing through high school.

20-2-329 No later than July 1, 2010, the Office of Student Achievement shall include in the accountability system provided for in Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 14 of this title emphasis on improving student achievement and increasing high school graduation rates, with the goal of having all public high schools in Georgia reach at least a 90 percent high school completion rate, which shall include completion by the end of the summer following a student's senior year, by July 1,

2020, with annual incremental targets

20-2-329.1 An individual graduation plan shall be reviewed annually, and revised, if appropriate, upon approval by the student and the student's parent or guardian with guidance from the student's school counselor or teacher adviser. An individual graduation plan may be changed at any time throughout a student's high school career upon approval by the student and the student's parent or guardian with guidance from the student's school counselor or teacher adviser.

20-2-329.2 The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions.

- Authored By: Rep. Fran Millar of the 79th
- House Committee: Education
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 486 - Superior Court Clerks' Retirement Fund of Georgia; not entitled credit for service after July 1, 2010; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill eliminates the 8 year credit for Deputy Clerk service for those who enter the Retirement Fund AFTER July 1, 2010. Allows for all elected to the Office of Superior Court Clerk to enter the Retirement Fund on an equal footing. bill also offers a one time \$5000.00 death benefit to the member's estate. Fiscal Bill - Although the First year cost is \$3,621, the employer contribution would not need to be raised because the fund is well-funded and the revenue from fines, fees, and bond forfeitures is sufficient to cover additional cost thus there is \$0 dollar impact on fund.

- Authored By: Rep. John Meadows of the 5th
- House Committee: Retirement
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 493 - Georgia Youth Conservation Corps; creation and purposes of the corps; change

certain provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 493 enables the Georgia Youth Conservation Corps to take advantage of federal funds in order to assist in the weatherizing of residential homes.
- Authored By: Rep. Tyrone Brooks of the 63rd
- House Committee: Children & Youth
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 516 - Industrialized buildings; comply with local ordinances and resolutions; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 516 seeks to invalidate any ordinance or regulation currently in effect or enacted by a local government that treats residential industrialized buildings, commonly known as "modular homes", any differently from buildings constructed on site. This bill also prohibits those areas of authority belonging to local governments shall not adopt any ordinance or resolution that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of prohibiting or discriminating against industrialized buildings in any area or zone where conventional site built buildings of the same use group are permitted.

This bill further provides that the Safety Fire Commissioner shall promulgate safety standards, to provide for an inspection process and fees and to prohibit conflicting legislation by local jurisdictions for pre-owned manufactured homes and their inhabitants.

- Authored By: Rep. Jay Roberts of the 154th
- House Committee: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 540 - Elections; remove references to ballot cards; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 540 is the annual "housekeeping" bill for the Elections Division of the Secretary of States Office.

- Authored By: Rep. Austin Scott of the 153rd
- House Committee: Governmental Affairs
- Yeas: 91; Nays: 72
- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

HB 571 - Sexual offenders; classification; change and enact provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill updates the code sections dealing with classification of sexual offenders, sexual offender registration requirements, and restrictions on sexual offenders' residences, workplaces, and activities. Also, a narrow and defined appeals process has been added that allows registration requirements to be altered at the discretion of a superior court judge in very limited circumstances. Major topics covered in this bill include: Appeals, Electronic monitoring devices, Homeless provisions, Language Consistency/Terminology, Misdemeanor offenders, E-mail information, Out of State Offenders, Removal

provisions, Penalties, Sexual Offender Registration Review Board, Restrictions on those required to register, Volunteers, Property Interests.

- Authored By: Rep. David Ralston of the 7th
- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 788 - Animal protection; methods of euthanasia; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: Prohibits animal shelters from utilizing gas chambers to euthanize cats and dogs, instead requiring lethal injection to be used as the method of euthanasia (the latter method currently already widely in use).
- Authored By: Rep. Tom Knox of the 24th
- House Committee: Science and Technology
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 827 - Highway employees; death or disability; indemnification; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill would revise indemnification provisions of the Georgia State Indemnification Fund by increasing death or disability coverage amounts for state highway employees in the line of duty to match those of other public safety individuals. This bill has a fiscal note. The impact is projected to be \$83,000 per year assuming one death and one partial permanent liability claim. Currently, the Georgia State Indemnification Fund has a balance of approximately \$3.4 million.
- Authored By: Rep. Chuck Sims of the 169th
- House Committee: Judiciary
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 858 - County law libraries; payment of certain funds into county general fund; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill increases the county population (from 700,000 to 950,000) below which those counties are allowed to retain certain funds in the county law library fund for the purposes of supporting a law library rather than placing them in the general treasury.
- Authored By: Rep. Rich Golick of the 34th
- House Committee: Judiciary
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 889 - Recognizance bonds; persons charged with certain crimes; limit

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill limits recognizance bonds for persons charged with certain crimes, defined as a 'bail restricted offense,' (including, by way of example, a serious violent felony as defined in 17-10-6.1, aggravated assault, felony pimping, felony DUI) and entering a pretrial release program, a pretrial release or diversion program, or a pretrial intervention and diversion program. A judge, in his or her sound discretion and in appropriate cases, may still release a

person on their own recognizance for one of the enumerated bail restricted offenses so long as it is not into one of the pretrial programs covered in the code section.

- Authored By: Rep. Len Walker of the 107th
- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 907 - Quality Basic Education Act; organization of schools, programs, and scheduling; revise certain provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 907 is a bill relating to the "Quality Basic Education Act" and revising certain provisions of the middle school program. This bill will make it possible for middle school systems to receive money with any combination of grade levels for the housing of students. In current law, the school could only receive funds if it housed the middle school grades six, seven and eight together. Now it is up to the local system to decide how to organize the housing of the students. This bill also takes a look at the education schedule for the students. The local school board is still required to provide a minimum of 5 hours instructional classes but does not have to include remedial courses for those students who are not performing on grade level.

- Authored By: Rep. David Casas of the 103rd
- House Committee: Education
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 923 - Quality Basic Education Act; salary schedules for certificated personnel; revise provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 923 deals with certified personnel being placed on the state salary schedule based on their leadership degree but is not in a leadership position. This does not apply to an educator who possessed a leadership degree prior to July 1, 2013, as long as they were enrolled in an educator leadership preparation program on or before April 1, 2009.

- Authored By: Rep. Jay Neal of the 1st
- House Committee: Education
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 936 - Student transportation; allowance to refurbish existing school buses; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 936 relates to the funds used on refurbishing school buses. In past code they were not allowed to use the money for school buses to refurbish them, the money could only be used to buy new ones or replace old ones. This bill will make it possible for the State Board of Education to use these funds to refurbish buses in need of work. All buses that are refurbished will still be subject to all safety and maintenance inspections, the refurbishment must be completed by the a school bus manufacturer of by a dealer of such manufacturer.

- Authored By: Rep. Paul Battles of the 15th
- House Committee: Education
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 948 - General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill provides appropriated sums of money for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2010, and ending June 30, 2011. The funding will be used for the operation of the State government, its departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other agencies. Further, it provides funding for the university system, common schools, counties, municipalities, political subdivisions and for all other governmental activities, projects and undertakings authorized by law.

- Authored By: Rep. David Ralston of the 7th
- House Committee: Appropriations
- Yeas: 137; Nays: 33
- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

HB 981 - Law enforcement vehicles; painted solid color; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation amends Code Section 40-8-91 to allow the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to have State Patrol cars painted a solid color instead of a two toned scheme. The current regulations regarding two toned color schemes remain unchanged. HB 981 just offers another option when considering painting of patrol cars.

Senate amendment adopted: Section 1 - Subsection (2) : lines 28 and 29 -- Strike underlined language "which extends a minimum of eight inches above the top outside of the roof of the car and "This amendment was offered by Senator Douglas on the grounds that there are no law enforcement vehicles with light bars over 8 inches above the roof of the car. Senate added language from HB 1165 that revises the section of the code dealing with motorcycle enforcement units and repeals the sunset provision that was contained in the bill when the motorcycle enforcement unit was created. The House agreed to this addition to the bill.

- Authored By: Rep. Jill Chambers of the 81st
- House Committee: Public Safety and Homeland Security
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 991 - Sales and use tax; county and municipal; distribution of proceeds; revise

- BILL SUMMARY: Changes provisions applicable to the renegotiations of distribution of joint county and municipal sales tax collections. Currently, should an agreement not be reached by the second year following a decennial census, the distribution certificate expires and the local governing authorities do not receive the tax proceeds until the distribution certificate is renegotiated.

Provides for judicial proceedings should the parties involved not be able to reach an agreement after sixty days of nonbinding arbitration or mediation. After sixty days, any party may file a petition in superior court of the county seeking resolution of the dispute. The petition will be assigned to a judge who is not a judge in the circuit in which the county is located. The judge's decision as to the allocation of tax proceeds shall adopt the best and final offer of one of the parties and shall also include findings of fact. The judge enters a final order which contains a new distribution certificate, and appeals will be allowed only for the judge's disregard of the law, for partiality of the judges, or for corruption, fraud, or misconduct by the judge or a party.

- Authored By: Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th

- House Committee: Ways & Means

- A motion to agree as amended sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration. The Senate receded from its position, so this bill received Final Passage.

HB 1002 - Crimes and offenses; crimes against judges and court personnel; increase punishment

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill provides for enhanced penalties against those who commit aggravated assault against judges, attorneys, clerks of court, deputy clerks of court, court reporters, and probation officers while they are performing their official duties.

- Authored By: Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th

- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil

- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1005 - Special license plates; Zoo Atlanta; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1005 creates specialty license plates to benefit Zoo Atlanta and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

- Authored By: Rep. Katie M. Dempsey of the 13th

- House Committee: Motor Vehicles

- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1012 - Special license plates; service members killed in action; expand definition

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1012 expands the provisions of the Gold Star specialty license plate. Currently, only the spouse, mother, or father of a fallen service member may apply for the Gold Star plate. Under HB 1012, siblings and step-parents will also be able to obtain this plate. However, the plates will not be free for siblings or step-parents.

- Authored By: Rep. Billy Horne of the 71st

- House Committee: Motor Vehicles

- A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate

for consideration. The Senate agreed to the House amendment so this bill received Final Passage.

HB 1013 - Sales tax; educational purposes; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1013 requires school boards to publish an annual summary of their sales tax for education (ESPLOST) program finances in a newspaper of general circulation within the local government boundaries. The publication must show, for each project, the original estimated cost, the current estimated cost, amounts expended in prior year, and amounts expended in the current year. This is the same requirement imposed on counties and cities that have a special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST). This is intended to provide transparency in the use of taxpayer money and ensures school systems are held to the same standards as counties and cities.
- Authored By: Rep. Doug Holt of the 112th
- House Committee: Ways & Means
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1040 - Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act; certain health activities not require license; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill allows individuals to have certain health maintenance activities performed by a friend, caregiver, etc. (who is not a family member) that would otherwise have to be provided by an RN or LPN because the individual cannot provide the activities to themselves due to disability. It seeks to give the consumer more choice and control over their own affairs. This bill also provides that the proxy caregiver will be liable for his or her actions. The medical professional who authorized or trained that caregiver would be liable for failing to meet the applicable standard of care in assessing the proxy caregiver's qualifications or capability, in assessing whether the health maintenance activities could be performed by a proxy caregiver, and in assessing whether the health maintenance activities could be performed outside a hospital or nursing home. A medical professional would also be liable for negligently training the proxy caregiver if the training deviated from the applicable standard of care and was a proximate cause of injury to the disabled person.
- Senate Committee Changes: Language was added to clarify that Medicaid is the payor of last resort and that other funding sources for the health maintenance activities should be utilized if they are available.
- Authored By: Rep. Jimmy Pruet of the 144th
- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1050 - Real estate appraisers; appraisal management companies; add regulations

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill requires the Real Estate Appraisal Management

Companies to register with the Georgia Real Estate Appraisers Board. It further establishes certain standards and requirements for the registration and operation of such appraisal management companies and authorizes the Board to regulate such companies. This bill also outlines prohibited activities and authorizes the Board to take disciplinary actions against companies that violate such provisions.

- Authored By: Rep. Tommy Benton of the 31st
- House Committee: Regulated Industries
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1059 - Solid waste management; permits for handling, disposal, or treatment; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1059 will allow for a minor permit modification for existing municipal solid waste disposal facilities for materials consisting of concrete, asphalt, cardboard, or yard trimmings or similar wood wastes diverted from the waste stream for the recycling or other beneficial reuse of such materials. A 30 day notice to the chief elected official of the jurisdiction is required before starting any recycling operation for materials consisting of concrete, asphalt, cardboard, or yard trimmings or similar wood wastes.

- Authored By: Rep. Randy Nix of the 69th
- House Committee: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
- A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration. The Senate agreed to the House amendment so this bill received Final Passage.

HB 1069 - Income tax; credits for equipment that reduces energy or water usage; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1069 provides for an income tax credit for taxpayers that purchase certain energy or water efficient equipment as part of new construction or for retrofit in the year the equipment is placed in service. The amount of the credit is 25% of the cost of the equipment or \$2,500, whichever is less. Eligible equipment includes energy and water efficient equipment certified by the commissioner of natural resources as effective in reducing business or domestic energy or water usage. Tax credits allowed shall not exceed a taxpayers' income tax liability, and unused credits may be carried forward for five years. The aggregate amount of the tax credits that shall be allowed is limited to the amount of federal funds granted to Georgia for this purpose, and these credits will only be granted in years such federal funds are granted. After purchase of the equipment, the taxpayer must submit an application to the Dept. of Revenue for approval of the credit, and the credits will be allowed on a first come, first served basis.

- Authored By: Rep. Joe Wilkinson of the 52nd
- House Committee: Ways & Means
- Yeas: 97; Nays: 62

- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1079 - Teacher certification; additional payment methods; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1079 amends Code Section 20-2-200 relating to the payment methods for teachers to pay certifications fees to the Professional Standards Commission. In the past, teachers were only allowed to pay with check or money order but now will be allowed to use credit or debit cards as well.

- Authored By: Rep. Tom Dickson of the 6th

- House Committee: Education

- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1104 - Juvenile proceedings; graduated sanctions and secure detention for probation violators; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill extends the sunset relating to the maximum number of days a child may serve in a youth detention center to July 1, 2013. After that date a court may sentence a child to serve in a youth detention center for a maximum of 60 days. The current maximum is 30 days.

- Authored By: Rep. Jimmy Pruet of the 144th

- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil

- Yeas: 150; Nays: 1

- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1147 - Special liens on personalty; eliminate aircraft liens; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: The bill deals with aviation liens. There was preemption at the federal level (with respect to recordation of the interest in the aircraft or aircraft engines) and the current Georgia Code does not align with federal law. This bill is to modify the language in the Georgia Code to recognize the federal preemption and to clear up any confusion that may be present with regard to how aviation liens should be perfected.

- Authored By: Rep. David Knight of the 126th

- House Committee: Judiciary

- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1195 - Labor and industrial relations; Georgia Workforce Investment Board; create

- Authored By: Rep. Terry England of the 108th

- House Committee: Industrial Relations

- Yeas: 150; Nays: 7

- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1198 - Income tax; taxable nonresident; change definition

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1198 changes the definition of "taxable nonresident" to provide for income taxation of income received by certain individuals that are not residents of Georgia in the taxable year. Currently nonresidents are only taxable if they regularly, but not casually or intermittently, engage in activity for gain or profit in Georgia. This bill will also cause those that casually or intermittently engage in activity in Georgia to become taxable nonresidents. This bill also provides that nonresident individuals that engaged in a prior year in activity for gain or profit in Georgia and in the taxable year receives deferred compensation or income from the exercise of stock options will be subject to Georgia income tax on such income. These changes will be limited by the current language that provides that such individuals will only become taxable nonresidents if the income received for services performed in Georgia does not exceed the lesser of 5% of the income the person receives in all places or \$5,000.

- Authored By: Rep. Larry O`Neal of the 146th

- House Committee: Ways & Means

- Yeas: 123; Nays: 12

- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1221 - Sales and use tax; change certain definitions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1221 is legislation that brings Georgia's sales tax code in compliance with the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement. This will allow us to participate in a program whereby remote vendors voluntarily collect use tax on purchases by Georgia residents and remit such taxes to Georgia. This legislation provides ease in administration and compliance for businesses that wish to participate by creating uniform definitions in the sales tax law. Collection of use taxes by these remote vendors will provide Georgia businesses that must collect sales tax a more level playing field.

- Authored By: Rep. Larry O`Neal of the 146th

- House Committee: Ways & Means

- Yeas: 144; Nays: 17

- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1231 - Uniform rules of the road; proper execution of a left turn; clarify

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1231 addresses vagueness within the "Uniform Rules of the Road" dealing with left hand turns. Specifically, it requires when turning left and exiting an intersection you must maintain your lane position as you enter the new road.

*The Senate Public Safety Committee added two amendments. Both amend Code Section 40-6-395. The first change comes from SB 2 and changes from 30

miles per hour to 20 miles per hour, the speed above the speed limit a driver can exceed while attempting to elude an officer and it be a felony. The second change creates a separate felony charge for those attempting to elude an officer and being found to be DUI.

- Authored By: Rep. Bobby C Reese of the 98th
- House Committee: Motor Vehicles
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1236 - Court reports; reduce number of reports to distribute; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill reduces the number of court reports that the reporter is required to distribute in hard copy to various departments, courts, etc. throughout the state.
- Authored By: Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th
- House Committee: Judiciary
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1268 - Insurance; time periods and eligibility for continuation coverage; revise

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1268 extends the time period for continuation coverage (COBRA) under certain group accident and sickness insurance plans for 15 months. This is done in conjunction with a federal act whereby a subsidy of 65% of the premium cost will be paid by the federal government. This will allow Georgians involuntarily terminated from a small business employer access to federal stimulus dollars to help pay their families health insurance.
- Authored By: Rep. Tom Knox of the 24th
- House Committee: Insurance
- A motion to agree as amended and the Senate's agreement to this amendment represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1272 - Income tax returns; make contributions for lupus and kidney disease; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1272 provides a mechanism for taxpayers to contribute to a Lupus and Kidney Disease Research Program Fund on their individual income tax returns by reducing all or a part of their tax refund due. The Department of Revenue will transmit the funds contributed to the Department of Community Health for deposit into the fund, and may withhold a reasonable amount for administration costs, up to \$50,000. All balances in this fund must be deposited into an interest-bearing account, and such funds shall be expended by DCH through contracts for multiple sclerosis research. DCH must annually prepare by February 1, an accounting of funds received and expended and a review and evaluation of all expended funds. This report will be made available to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker, the members of the Board of

Human Services, and if requested, to members of the public.

- Authored By: Rep. Toney Collins of the 95th
- House Committee: Ways & Means
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1284 - Planning and Budget, Office of; record of user fees collected; provide for publication

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1284 requires the Office of Planning and Budget to maintain a record of all user fees collected by any department, agency, or other budget unit. Further, it provides for publication of the record on the Open Georgia website.

- Authored By: Rep. Richard H. Smith of the 131st
- House Committee: Governmental Affairs
- Yeas: 149; Nays: 4
- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1322 - Public disclosure exemption; certain graphic image photographs; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1322 provides that certain photographs fewer than five years old which are in the custody of a law enforcement agency which show graphic images of the sexual organs or the dismemberment of the dead body of a crime victim whose identity is known shall not be subject to public disclosure. This bill will become effective upon signature of the Governor.

- Authored By: Rep. Jill Chambers of the 81st
- House Committee: Governmental Affairs
- A motion to agree as amended and the Senate's agreement to this amendment represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1359 - Best management practices; required buffer along state waters; provide exception

- BILL SUMMARY: Provides an exemption from the state's 25-foot water buffer requirement for construction of bulkheads and sea walls to the extent necessary to prevent erosion of the shoreline into a lake operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or by a utility regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The exemption would be limited to the duration of construction of those erosion-control devices.

- Authored By: Rep. Mickey Channell of the 116th
- House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HB 1393 - Sales and use tax; cap exemption; metropolitan public transportation purposes; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1393 excludes 1% local sales taxes levied in counties for

MARTA after January 1, 2010 from the 2% cap on local sales taxes. This will allow Clayton County to hold a local referendum to decide whether to levy this local sales tax. Excluded from the new levy will be sales of motor vehicles and sales of jet fuel to qualifying airlines at the Atlanta airport.

- Authored By: Rep. Roberta Abdul-Salaam of the 74th
- House Committee: Ways & Means
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS:

HR 136 - Owners of real property; industrial areas; remove property - Constitutional Amendment (CA)

- BILL SUMMARY: This Resolution is an amendment to the Constitution to allow owners of real property located in the industrial area in Chatham County (near Garden City) to remove the property from the industrial area. This will then allow the property to be annexed by the local municipality so that city services can continue to be provided. This restriction from annexation can only be removed by general amendment to the Constitution.

- Authored By: Rep. Bob Bryant of the 160th
- House Committee: Judiciary
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

HR 178 - Enforcement of contracts; restrict competition; provisions - CA

- BILL SUMMARY: Modifies Article III, Section VI, Paragraph V, Subparagraph (c) of the Constitution to allow for contracts which restrict competition after a term of employment or commercial relationship. The amendment gives courts the authority to modify restrictive covenants to effectuate the intent of the parties where the original covenant would be unlawful. HR 178 is necessary for HB 173, passed by the General Assembly in 2009, to become effective and to sustain Constitutional challenge.

- Authored By: Rep. Kevin Levitas of the 82nd
- House Committee: Judiciary
- Yeas: 152; Nays: 3
- Adoption of the conference committee report represents final passage of this bill.

HR 1736 - Secretary of State and Board of Regents; Georgia Capitol and State Museums; urge

- BILL SUMMARY: The purpose of House Resolution 1736 is to compel the Secretary of State and the Board of Regents to begin working toward creating a State Museum of History. Georgia being one of the original 13 American colonies established in 1733 has a very rich history. Unfortunately, with the amount of history this state possesses, Georgia is lacking a proper venue to

preserve and teach our important heritage to the future generations of this state. The museum would encompass social, cultural, and political aspects of our history as well as artifacts that have been accumulated over time. This resolution encourages these agencies, including the General Assembly to begin planning a place to display the legacy of Georgia properly.

- Authored By: Rep. Joe Wilkinson of the 52nd
- House Committee: Higher Education
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 153; Nays: 1

HR 1948 - South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; not prohibit Atlantic Ocean bottom fishing; urge

- BILL SUMMARY: Urges the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to not prohibit Atlantic Ocean bottom fishing in large portions of the Atlantic Ocean near Georgia.
- Authored By: Rep. Mark Williams of the 178th
- House Committee: Game, Fish, & Parks
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 146; Nays: 2

SENATE BILLS:

SB 7 - Truth in Testimony Act; require an oath for purposes of presenting certain evidence to committee/subcommittee of General Assembly

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill amends Code Section 15-10-105 to provide that the General Assembly may at any time specify by local law who shall serve as clerk of magistrate court.

This bill also includes a provision whereby the clerk of superior court and the clerk of state court shall be given notice at least on week prior to a successor being appointed. Finally, this bill raises the limit for claims in magistrate court to \$25,000. The current limit is \$15,000.

Floor Amendment: AM 29 0960 - amends the bill by taking out previous language and inserting language from HB 1057

- Authored By: Sen. Ed Tarver of the 22nd
- House Committee: Judiciary
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 129; Nays: 22

SB 78 - Georgia Voluntary Remediation Program Act; define certain terms; provide for power/duties of Environmental Protection Div. director

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill makes changes to the Voluntary Remediation Act (passed under H.B. 248 last year), a privatized program in which property owners

can utilize professional engineers or qualified geologists to more quickly and cost effectively investigate and remediate contaminated sites. This bill authorizes the director of EPD (Environmental Protection Division) to assess, receive, administer and disperse funds obtained from application and reimbursement fees for the purpose of carrying out the duties and powers under these provisions, and to enter into agreements and contracts as required to accomplish these purposes. A Voluntary Remediation Escrow Account is established, consisting of application and reimbursement fees collected by the director pursuant to these provisions. The director may expend the principal balance of the escrow account for costs incurred in administering the voluntary remediation program, including reimbursement of state contractors used in the administration of such program. The director also is authorized to expend interest earned on the account for administration of this program, with interest funds collected to be expended within the same fiscal year when the interest was earned and any such interest not expended to be deposited in the state treasury. Any unused funds remaining following conclusion of a project are to be deposited in the general treasury.

The bill was amended on the floor of the House to include provisions of H.B. 1298, passed previously by the House but not yet acted on by the Senate, which amends Georgia's hazardous waste management and hazardous site response laws to conform with updated federal provisions.

- Authored By: Sen. Ross Tolleson of the 20th
- House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Amendments(s): Amendment by Rep. Benton adopted
- Yeas: 156; Nays: 1

SB 99 - Boating Safety Zones; prohibit operation of certain vessels on Lake Sinclair

- BILL SUMMARY: Current law prohibits the operation of certain vessels on Lake Burton, Seed Lake, Lake Rabun, Lake Tugaloo, Tallulah Falls Lake, and Lake Yonah. This legislation seeks to prohibit the operation of such vessels on Lake Sinclair as well. However, this prohibition will not apply to any vessel that was lawfully operated on Lake Sinclair immediately prior to the effective date of this legislation and was, as of such date, included on the tax roll of any county within which any part of such lake lies. For the purposes of this legislation, a "vessel" shall be defined as any motorized vessel greater than 30 feet six inches in length; except for law enforcement, scientific research, or dam operation and maintenance craft; or any vessel equipped with any type of baffle system.

- Authored By: Sen. Johnny Grant of the 25th
- House Committee: Game, Fish, & Parks
- Rule: Modified-Open

- Amendments(s): AM 21-3741 - Adopted: Rep. Knight
- Yeas: 159; Nays: 2

SB 131 - The Revised Georgia Trust Code of 2009; comprehensively revise provisions relating to trusts

- BILL SUMMARY: - Title 53, Chapters 12 - 15, relating to trusts, charitable trusts, trustees, and trust instruments are repealed and replaced with the language contained in the bill.
- The revisions to the Georgia Trust Code contained in this bill use the National Conference on Commissioners on Uniform State Laws 2005 Uniform Trust Code (UTC) revisions as the basis for the modifications. The UTC has been modified to avoid conflicts with existing and remaining OCGA sections relating to wills, trusts, and estates.
- The bill was drafted in cooperation with the Fiduciary Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia and extensive discussions were held before the final version of the bill was produced.
- Code Section 7-1-242 of OCGA, relating to restrictions on corporate fiduciaries, is amended to add nonprofit corporations to the list of entities that may lawfully act as a fiduciary.
- Authored By: Sen. Bill Hamrick of the 30th
- House Committee: Judiciary
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

SB 138 - Transparency in Lawsuits Protection Act; provide legislative enactments do not create a private right of action unless expressly stated

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 138 is the "Transparency in Lawsuits Protection Act" and provides that legislative enactments do not create a private right of action unless such right is expressly provided therein. The bill codifies more than 30 years of Georgia case law and the modern trend in federal cases.
- Authored By: Sen. John J. Wiles of the 37th
- House Committee: Judiciary
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 132; Nays: 15

SB 148 - Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Law; review of existing regulatory entities to determine the need for change to current reg.

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill authorizes the Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council to conduct periodic reviews of each existing regulatory entity to determine applicability and necessity of such entity's authority. It also requires the Council to follow such review with a report to the Georgia General Assembly recommending the changes it deems necessary. Upon evaluation of the Council's report(s) and consideration of governmental and societal costs and benefits, the Georgia General Assembly will make the choice to keep, amend or repeal the regulation of a regulatory agency in question. In addition, this bill establishes a Georgia Government accountability Act which provides a method that can be used to review and evaluate the efficiency and productivity of state agencies. It further requires the Legislative Sunset Committee, comprised of the Senate and House appropriations committees, to conduct such reviews and recommend

keeping, reorganizing or abolishing such agencies to the General Assembly. Floor Amendment (AM 25 1222) 04/27/10 This amendment exempts certain agricultural commissions and organizations from some provisions of this bill.

- Authored By: Sen. David Shafer of the 48th
- House Committee: Regulated Industries
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

SB 173 - Criminal Justice Coordination Council; councilmembers' compensation/reimbursement of expenses; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation brings the Council into compliance with recommendations by the Attorney General's office.

Section 1 of this bill modifies the compensation structure for members of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council by changing the daily expense allowance to the amount specified in 45-7-21 (b) (currently \$105 per day) plus reimbursement for transportation costs via public carrier or the legal mileage rate.

Section 2 revises the functions and authority of the council by adding the ability to administer gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of carrying out this chapter. It also clarifies that the purpose for the interaction, communication, and coordination of all components of the criminal justice system of this state is to improve the state's response to crime and its effects.

Section 3 clarifies language related to the acceptance of gifts, grants, donations, and property by the Council for the purpose of carrying this chapter.

- Authored By: Sen. Bill Hamrick of the 30th
- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Amendments(s): N/A
- Yeas: 158; Nays: 0

SB 194 - State Purchasing; benefits based funding projects; revise provisions; change membership of an oversight committee

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 194 requires that if a generic drug is substituted for a name brand medication it must be shown on the prescription bottle label what the name brand medication was that was substituted.

- Authored By: Sen. Ronnie Chance of the 16th
- House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications
- Yeas: 148; Nays: 2
- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

SB 195 - Professions/Businesses; clarify applications submitted in prescribed form not necessarily written document; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: Senate Bill 195 clarifies that the application submitted for certain professions and businesses are to be made in the form prescribed and

not necessarily as a written document, changes provisions relating to examinations to obtain license to engage in the practice of pharmacy, and changes certain provisions

relating

to the general powers of the division director.

- Authored By: Sen. Ronnie Chance of the 16th

- House Committee: Health & Human Services

- Yeas: 147; Nays: 9

- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

SB 237 - Commerce/Trade; prohibit pricing practices during an abnormal market disruption; petroleum products; define terms

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 237 will require the Governor to specify what goods and services cannot increase their prices during a state of emergency. Currently, all previously listed goods and services are automatically frozen, even if they are not directly affected by the state of emergency.

- Authored By: Sen. Jeff Mullis of the 53rd

- House Committee: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

SB 238 - Board of Regents Scholarship; authorize additional types of student financial assistance for medical/dental students; Medical College of Ga.

- Authored By: Sen. Seth Harp of the 29th

- House Committee: Higher Education

- Yeas: 100; Nays: 43

- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

SB 239 - Education; mandatory attendance; provisions; require new residents in a local school system to enroll a child within 30 days

- BILL SUMMARY: Senate Bill 239 relates to attendance and enrollment policies within schools systems for youth between the ages of six and sixteen. Parents or guardians are allotted a 30 day grace period to enroll students into a school once they have moved into a new district. If a parent or guardian causes a child to accumulate 5 or more days of unexcused absences or any similar attendance policy violations, they will be held responsible. Such parents or guardians could be guilty of a misdemeanor, subject to monetary fines, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service or any combination of.

- Authored By: Sen. Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd

- House Committee: Education

- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

SB 244 - Ga. Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act; performance of health maintenance act. by a designated caregiver shall not be prohibited

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 244 changes the name of the "Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority" to the "Georgia Environmental Finance Authority".
- Authored By: Sen. Renee S Unterman of the 45th
- House Committee: Health & Human Services
- Yeas: 136; Nays: 14
- Adoption of the conference committee report by both House & Senate represents final passage of this bill.

SB 252 - Polysomnography Practice Act; provide for the certification of polysomnographic technologists

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation enables the Georgia Composite Medical Board to establish a monitoring and rehabilitation program for impaired physicians. Additionally the legislation allows the Medical Board to contract with entities to conduct such programs.
- Authored By: Sen. Don Thomas of the 54th
- House Committee: Health & Human Services
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 150; Nays: 2

SB 287 - Drivers' License; instructional permit reported stolen or forged; department shall issue a replacement permit with a new number

287 provides that when a person to whom a driver's license has been issued reports to the department that their license has been stolen or forged and requests a replacement permit or license, pays the required fee, and provides proof sufficient to the department that such permit or license has been stolen or forged, the department shall offer to issue a replacement license with a new license number. The cost for a replacement license is five dollars for the first time and ten dollars for each subsequent replacement.

Floor Amendment: AM 29 0958: Rep. Collins - adds the phrase "convicted felon" on the license for duration of the convicted felon's sentence.

- Authored By: Sen. Judson Hill of the 32nd
- House Committee: Motor Vehicles
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Amendments(s): AM 29 0958 - Adopted
- Yeas: 119; Nays: 28

SB 291 - Firearms; laws concerning carrying of concealed weapons; revise comprehensively

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 291 streamlines the renewal process for permit holders and clarifies the ability for permit holders to carry in the non-secure areas of the airport.
- Authored By: Sen. David Shafer of the 48th

- House Committee: Public Safety and Homeland Security
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 120; Nays: 37

SB 299 - Juvenile Proceedings; zero tolerance policy on weapons in schools; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill changes provisions regarding the zero tolerance policy on weapons in schools, but only for cases involving children. Currently, school administrators are not given the opportunity to use any discretion in applying the policy. This bill will provide needed flexibility.
- Authored By: Sen. Emanuel Jones of the 10th
- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 156; Nays: 0

SB 305 - Transportation Department; design-build method; increase the percentage of projects contracted

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation amends Georgia Code so that in contracting for design-build contracts, the Department of Transportation is limited to contracting for no more than 30% of the total amount of construction projects awarded in the previous fiscal year. Current law provides for no more than 15%.
- Authored By: Sen. Jeff Mullis of the 53rd
- House Committee: Transportation
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

SB 308 - Firearms; carrying and possession; change provisions; definitions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill clarifies Georgia law regarding where a person who has a license to carry a weapon may or may not do so. Section 1-1 provides definitions for the following terms as used in Code section 16-11-127: handgun, knife, license holder, long gun, weapon, and weapons carry license. The bill maintains current law regarding persons having weapons on their own property, the manner of carrying openly, and reciprocity with other states. The bill removes current language which prohibits persons from carrying weapons to "public gatherings" and provides that persons may not carry in: houses of worship, courthouses, jails or prisons, government buildings, state mental health facilities, bars, unless specifically permitted by the owner, or within 150 feet of a polling place. The bill also provides that it is not prohibited for a licensed person to have a weapon locked in a vehicle at those aforementioned location's parking facilities. The bill provides that private property owners have the authority to determine whether persons shall have the right to carry on his or her property. The bill maintains current provisions prohibiting weapons in schools, including colleges and universities, but removes the 1,000 foot "gun free school zone" provision. Persons prohibited from receiving or retaining a license include those who are less than 21 years old, are

prohibited under federal law, have a felony conviction, or have been convicted of specific misdemeanors. Probate courts have five rather than three days to take certain administrative steps in the application process. The state will have the authority to require licenses have covert and overt security features, such as holographic imaging and photographs of licensees, effective January 1, 2012. The fee for a license is increased to \$30.00. It will be an offense to possess a counterfeit license with intent to represent the information. If a person takes legal action to challenge a rejected application, the applicant may sue for reasonable attorney fees. The new language provides the fees are only available upon showing the denial lacked substantial justification.

- Authored By: Sen. Mitch Seabaugh of the 28th
- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 118; Nays: 48

SB 313 - Grand Juries; oath shall be given to all witnesses; to provide that an unsworn testimony shall be disallowed

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill clarifies that 'all' witnesses before the grand jury shall be administered an oath before testifying.
- Authored By: Sen. Ed Harbison of the 15th
- House Committee: Judiciary
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 153; Nays: 0

SB 316 - Medicare Supplemental; make available to persons under age 65 who qualify for medicare due to disability or end-stage renal disease

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 316 extends Medigap insurance policies to everyone that qualifies for Medicare. Currently, these policies are only available to individuals over 65 years of age.
- Authored By: Sen. Don Thomas of the 54th
- House Committee: Insurance
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 147; Nays: 5

SB 339 - Contractors; allow utility contractors to bid upon/perform work on any utility system in this state

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill allows GA licensed utility contractors to bid for and perform work on utility systems in this state without obtaining a license under Chapter 41 of Title 43 relating to licensing of residential and general contractors. This bill also prohibits refusing such a licensed utility contractor's bid on the grounds of lacking a license under Chapter 41.
- Authored By: Sen. Mitch Seabaugh of the 28th
- House Committee: Regulated Industries

- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 162; Nays: 0

SB 345 - Rules of the Road; allow races on county/municipal roads when sanctioned by the local governing authority/ road is closed to traffic

- BILL SUMMARY: Allows road races to be held if sanctioned by the county or municipal government and if roads are closed to traffic. Notice of the race must also be published in the official county organ one month before the date of the race.

- Authored By: Sen. Jim Butterworth of the 50th
- House Committee: Public Safety and Homeland Security
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 149; Nays: 11

SB 346 - Ad Valorem Taxes; revise comprehensive provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 346 provides for comprehensive changes to the property tax code. It provides that notices of property value assessments will be sent out by the board of assessors annually, rather than only in years when the value is changed. This will ensure every property owner has a right to appeal their valuation every year. It also provides for a state-wide uniform assessment notice to be established by the commissioner of the Department of Revenue. This notice must contain an estimate of current year's taxes which will use the current assessment and the previous year's millage rate. The bill also provides for a new appeal process for non-homestead properties valued at \$1 million or more. Appeals on these properties may be made to a hearing officer which will be a certified appraiser. Just as with appeals to the board of equalization, decisions of the hearing officers may be appealed to the superior court. The bill provides for oversight of the boards of equalization and the hearing officers by the clerk of the superior court. The bill also provides that the transaction amount of an arms length, bona fide sale shall be the maximum fair market value for tax purposes in the next taxable year following the sale. "Arms length, bona fide sale" is defined in the bill as a transaction between unaffiliated parties.

- Authored By: Sen. Chip Rogers of the 21st
- House Committee: Ways & Means
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

SB 360 - Motor Vehicles; prohibit persons 18 years of age or younger from using wireless telecommunications devices; text messages

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 360 bans texting while driving for all drivers while drivers with an instruction permit or Class D license and under 18 years of age are banned from all cell phone use altogether.

- Authored By: Sen. Jack Murphy of the 27th

- House Committee: Public Safety and Homeland Security
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 131; Nays: 19

SB 362 - Property; liens of mechanics/materialmen; waiver and release upon payment

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill allows a claim of lien to be amended at any time to reduce the amount claimed. The amended claim of lien shall relate back to the date of filing for record of the original claim of lien.
- Authored By: Sen. Dan Weber of the 40th
- House Committee: Judiciary
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 155; Nays: 5

SB 363 - State Employee's Health Insurance Plan; Georgia Student Finance Authority; contract in any state health insurance plan

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 363 allows the Department of Community Health to contract with the Georgia Student Finance Authority for the purpose of participating in the State Health Benefit Plan. Because the Georgia Student Finance Authority is self funding, there is no cost to the state.
- Authored By: Sen. Greg Goggans of the 7th
- House Committee: Insurance
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 149; Nays: 0

SB 364 - Massage Therapist; conviction for sexual offense; license suspended for certain time periods; penalties

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill provides that the Board of Massage Therapy has the authority to investigate and punish businesses which provide massage therapy services when certain violations are committed and to ensure compliance with current laws regarding the profession.

Section 1 defines 'entity.'

Section 2 authorizes the Board to investigate entities in addition to persons.

Section 3 adds additional violations that may be investigated by the Board.

Section 4 provides the disciplinary actions that the Board may take.

Section 5 clarifies that businesses where massage therapy is performed for compensation are also subject to regulation by local governing authorities.

Section 6 deals with fines and punishments. A first offense is a misdemeanor. A second offense is a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. A third or subsequent offense is a felony.

- Authored By: Sen. Cecil Staton of the 18th
- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil

- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 150; Nays: 8

SB 367 - Influenza; revise the definition of "influenza vaccine"

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill expands the list of persons who can consent to surgical or medical treatment for those unable to do so for themselves. It also helps persons unable to consent receive access to timely medical care should a guardian be needed. The bill adds the ability of an 'adult friend' (a newly defined term), if no other person enumerated in the code is available, to consent to surgical or medical treatment. The bill provides immunity from civil and criminal liability for hospitals, health care facilities, health care providers, or other persons or entities that rely in good faith on the direction or decision of someone they reasonably believed to be authorized to consent. The bill creates a framework for an expedited process for the appointment of guardians for adults who are unable to consent to treatment and when no other person is available to consent.

- Authored By: Sen. Don Balfour of the 9th
- House Committee: Health & Human Services
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 92; Nays: 65

SB 368 - Fair Business Practices Act of 1975; deceptive representation/designations of geographic origins; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation seeks to prevent fraudulent or deceptive advertising in local telephone directory listings by amending provisions of the "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975." It specifically prohibits the publishing of advertisements that contain a local Georgia or toll-free phone number for a business without also clearly stating the nonlocal location of the business where the calls are actually being routed. These new regulations will take effect on January 1, 2011.

- Authored By: Sen. Bill Jackson of the 24th
- House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 157; Nays: 3

SB 371 - Georgia Bureau of Investigation; provide with authority to investigate certain offenses involving fraudulent real estate transactions

- BILL SUMMARY: Section 1 of the bill adds language to Code section 16-8-104 (Authority of district attorneys and the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute) to indicate that other authorized law enforcement agencies may conduct investigations of offenses related to residential mortgage fraud. Section 2 of the bill adds the ability to identify and investigate residential mortgage fraud to the powers and duties of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation

(GBI).

Section 3 of the bill adds a new Code section that allows the GBI to issue a subpoena, with the consent of the Attorney General, to compel production of books, papers, documents, or other tangible things including records and documents contained within, or generated by, a computer or any other electronic device. It further provides that the failure to comply, upon finding by the superior court that the subpoena is valid, may be punished as contempt of court.

- Authored By: Sen. Bill Cowser of the 46th
- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 152; Nays: 2

SB 374 - Legislative Economic Development Council; create

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill creates the Legislative Economic Development Council to be co-chaired by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Council will serve the purpose of evaluating the state's overall economic development strategy as well as reviewing all state funded activities and expenditures that go into implementing such strategy. This bill further outlines the composition of the Council as well as the Council's powers and duties. It also requires the Department of Economic Development to prepare a yearly report for submission to the members of the Council and the Governor, detailing the state's programs and activities related to job creation and economic development in Georgia.

Hugley Amendment codifies into law, the MLK Commission which is responsible for a variety of functions serving to strengthen and improve race relations in Georgia. Currently, this Commission was created through an executive order of the Governor.

- Authored By: Sen. Chip Pearson of the 51st
- House Committee: Economic Development & Tourism
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

SB 384 - Buildings; pre-owned manufactured homes; provide Safety Fire Commissioner shall

promulgate standards

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 384 provides that the Safety Fire Commissioner (Insurance Commissioner) shall promulgate standards for pre-owned manufactured homes to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the inhabitants of pre-owned manufactured homes. Further, it establishes the procedure for inspection of said homes. Under SB 384, local governments will be allowed to establish their own standards so long as they are not more stringent than the state standard and/or do not conflict with the state standard.

- Authored By: Sen. John Bulloch of the 11th
- House Committee: Governmental Affairs

- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 100; Nays: 52

SB 387 - Education; provide for career counseling/advisement for students in grades 6 through 12

- BILL SUMMARY: Senate Bill 387 related to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and their administration of the web based resource given for students in grades 6 through 12. This website gives the students counseling advisement, information to assist them in evaluating their academic skills and career interests as well as help students in grades 8 through 12 come up with a graduation plan.
- Authored By: Sen. Dan Weber of the 40th
- House Committee: Education
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 157; Nays: 0

SB 390 - Local Government; municipal corporation may determine when to establish a conservation easement

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill makes it easier for counties and municipal corporations (cities) to permanently conserve lands they own as parks or green space. This bill would allow counties and cities to place conservation easements on land that they own without having to go through the bidding procedure required under current law. The bill further provides that cities may lease out real or personal property of the city. The requirements of the lease for personal and real property are also included.
- Authored By: Sen. Earl "Buddy" Carter of the 1st
- House Committee: Judiciary
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 150; Nays: 1

SB 402 - Land Conservation; redefine certain terms

- BILL SUMMARY: Redefines terms relating to land conservation to make it possible for the Georgia Land Conservation Program to loan existing federal funds to non-governmental conservation organizations in a "bridge" capacity for the purpose of completing permanent land conservation transactions.
- Authored By: Sen. Ross Tolleson of the 20th
- House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 148; Nays: 3

SB 410 - Motor Vehicles; designate ambulances as emergency vehicles; exclude certain a

ambulance providers from certain permit requirements

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 410 eliminates the permitting and fee requirement for emergency lights on licensed ambulances.
- Authored By: Sen. John Douglas of the 17th
- House Committee: Public Safety and Homeland Security
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 150; Nays: 2

SB 411 - "Healthy Georgians Act of 2010"; provide exemptions from certain unfair trade

practices for certain wellness and health promotion programs

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 411 is the "Healthy Georgians Act of 2010". It will allow health insurers to offer incentives to their policy holders to improve their overall health. Under current law, such incentive programs are considered unfair trade practices.
- Authored By: Sen. Ralph T Hudgens of the 47th
- House Committee: Insurance
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Amendments(s): AM 21-3736 adopted
- Yeas: 102; Nays: 53

SB 414 - "Jared Little Act"; Georgia State Indemnification Fund; payment shall be made to parents/siblings

- BILL SUMMARY: This act is known as the "Jared Little Act." The bill provides that, in the case of death or organic brain damage suffered in the line of duty by a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, emergency management specialist, or prison guard, if such person does not have an unremarried spouse or dependents, the indemnification payment shall be made to the parents or siblings of such person.
- Authored By: Sen. Jeff Mullis of the 53rd
- House Committee: Judiciary
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 157; Nays: 1

SB 415 - Public Utilities; provide regulation of private emergency warning point to multipoint systems by Public Service Commission

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill adds a definition for "Emergency warning point to multipoint system" and requires the Public Service Commission to ensure that a management audit of each such system provider is performed at least once every five years in order to determine whether it is being managed in an efficient and effective manner. It further establishes the procedure for the selection of a management auditor and requires the audited EWPTM system provider to pay for such audit. Additionally, it waives the liability

of political subdivisions and state departments for failure to deliver information over an EWPTM system, with the exception of some circumstances. This bill also places such systems under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission and allows the commission to determine reasonable rates for the services.

- Authored By: Sen. Jeff Mullis of the 53rd
- House Committee: Regulated Industries
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 157; Nays: 1

SB 418 - Controlled Substance; establishment of a program; monitoring of prescribing/dispensing Schedule II, III, IV, or V

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation establishes a program for monitoring prescribed and dispensed all Schedule II and certain other controlled substances. The Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency would be authorized to monitor prescriptions and promulgate rules and regulations in compliance with the proposed law. Dispensers of Schedule II and certain other controlled substance will be required to submit specific information regarding the drug dispensed, the prescriber, and the patient to the database. Exemptions are provided for in-patient hospitals and pharmacies that are contracted with the state for specific services. "Dispenser" is a defined term in the bill, and includes anyone who delivers the drug to the ultimate user, but does not include a licensed hospital pharmacy, a practitioner or other authorized person who administers the drug or a wholesale distributor of the drug. The required information must be submitted electronically. Those dispensers who cannot submit the information electronically may apply for a waiver to send the information via paper. The information must be submitted within 96 hours of filling the prescription. Penalties for improper disclosure of any information contained within the database for any one who has access to the system. As well as penalties are established for any one who falsely tries to access the system or obtains any information through false pretenses. In addition, the Electronic Database Review Advisory Committee is created to oversee the implementation of this legislation. The bill also provides for penalties for persons who do not follow the act.

- Authored By: Sen. Earl "Buddy" Carter of the 1st
- House Committee: Health & Human Services
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 141; Nays: 17

SB 419 - Drivers' License; provide for notation; post traumatic stress disorder; members of armed services/veterans

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 419 provides that members of the armed services and veterans who have been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder may request to have a notation of such diagnosis placed on his or her driver's license.

Such applicant shall present the department with a sworn statement from a person licensed to practice medicine or psychology in this state verifying such diagnosis. Finally, it provides that any person convicted of a felony offense shall have such conviction demarcated on his or her driver's license for the length of his or her sentence.

- Authored By: Sen. Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd
- House Committee: Motor Vehicles
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 158; Nays: 1

SB 432 - "Advanced Broadband Collocation Act"; provide procedures; modification/collocation of wireless communication facilities

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation provides procedural guidelines for the process in which local governments review applications for the modification or collocation of wireless communication facilities. The term collocation is defined as the process of placing or installing new wireless facilities on previously existing wireless support structures, negating the need for entirely new construction. Proposed collocations may not alter the existing structure by increasing the overall height or width, exceeding applicable weight limits, or increasing the dimensions previously approved by the local governing authority. Local governing authorities will have 90 days to determine approval on each collocation or modification application. The technical, business, or service characteristics of a proposed wireless facility are not subject to review in the approval process.

- Authored By: Sen. Lee Hawkins of the 49th
- House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 149; Nays: 1

SB 435 - "Diabetes and Health Improvement Act of 2010"; enact; establish Georgia Diabetes Control Office; board of trustees

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation creates the office of Georgia Diabetes Control Office within Division of Public Health of the Department of Community Health, whose purpose is to develop, implement, and promote a statewide effort to combat the proliferation of Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, and pre-diabetes. A seven member advisory group is to give direction to the office, membership will include: A physician licensed in this state; A registered nurse licensed in this state; A dietician licensed in this state; A diabetes educator; A pharmacist licensed in this state; A representative of the business community; and a consumer who suffers from diabetes. Subject to appropriations, the board will have the power to issue two separate types of grants for increasing diabetes education and understanding within the state.

- Authored By: Sen. Don Thomas of the 54th

- House Committee: Health & Human Services
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 131; Nays: 25

SB 449 - Georgia Golf Hall of Fame; abolish; disposition of property

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill abolishes the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame Authority and transfers certain assets, contracts and other obligations of the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame Authority and the Board to the Georgia Department of Economic Development. This bill also authorizes the state to sell by competitive bid all real property owned or controlled by the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame for an amount not less than its outstanding bond indebtedness and not less than the fair market value. It further requires the Department of Economic Development to transfer the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame statues to Augusta for public use by the Augusta-Richmond County Commission.
- Authored By: Sen. Hardie Davis of the 22nd
- House Committee: Economic Development & Tourism
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 159; Nays: 0

SB 454 - Bingo; define certain terms; provide certain veterans organizations may sell certain

pull tab games of chance

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 454 provides for clarity in the regulations regarding coin operated amusement machines. It clarifies the definition of what constitutes a legal "bona fide coin operated amusement machine" and creates a distinction between machines that provide no reward or a reward of free play or additional time to play (Class A Machines) and machines that reward with merchandise or vouchers as set out in subparagraphs (d)(1)(B) and (d)(1)(C) of Code Section 16-12-35 (Class B Machines). It further provides for an updated fee schedule to obtain annual master licenses for those owning these machines and for the annual permit for each machine. It creates a new annual location permit fee for business owners and operators that have these machines at their locations.
- Authored By: Sen. John Douglas of the 17th
- House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 156; Nays: 5

SB 458 - Safety Belts; eliminate certain exceptions to the required use of safety belts

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation requires that passengers and drivers in pick up trucks wear seat belts. An exception is provided for agriculture use, as far as it is not required that farm personnel is not required to wear seat belt while in the course of normal and usual actions relating to agriculture.
- Authored By: Sen. Don Thomas of the 54th

- House Committee: Health & Human Services
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 132; Nays: 29

SB 470 - Computer Security; illegal to prevent reasonable efforts to block installation or execution of a covered file-sharing program

- BILL SUMMARY: Makes it illegal for an unauthorized user of a computer in Georgia to prevent reasonable efforts to block the installation, execution or disabling of a covered file-sharing program on the computer, or to install, offer to install or make available for installation, reinstallation or update a covered file-sharing program on the computer without first doing certain things (such as providing clear and conspicuous notice to the authorized user of the computer which files on that computer will be made available to the public). The bill defines "covered file-sharing program" as a computer program, application or software that enables the computer on which that program, application or software is installed to designate files as available for searching by and copying to one or more computers, to transmit such designated files directly to one or more other computers, and to request the transmission of such designated files directly from one or more other computers.
- Authored By: Sen. Cecil Staton of the 18th
- House Committee: Science and Technology
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 159; Nays: 0

SB 474 - Wildlife; possession of native wild animal killed by motor vehicle; provide exceptions and conditions

- BILL SUMMARY: SB 474 requires those who accidentally kill a bear with their vehicle to report the accident to the Department of Natural Resources or local law enforcement within 48 hours. It shall not authorize any person to take possession of any animal of a species designated as a protected species. It shall be unlawful to run bears with dogs except in counties with an open season for hunting bears with dogs.
- Authored By: Sen. Don Thomas of the 54th
- House Committee: Game, Fish, & Parks
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Amendments(s): AM 21 3740
- Yeas: 154; Nays: 3

SB 480 - State Council of Economic Advisors; creation; provide composition, duties, and responsibilities

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation calls for the creation of the State Council of Economic Advisors. The Council will consist of five members, three of which will be appointed by the

Governor, one by the Speaker of the House and one by the President of the Senate. Each member must either be an economist or have expertise in Georgia state revenues. The council will be charged with determining the amount of unappropriated surplus expected to have accrued in the state treasury and anticipated revenue collections for the next fiscal year. The Governor is authorized to reduce these estimates after they've been submitted, but cannot increase figures without the agreement of the council.

- Authored By: Sen. Jack Hill of the 4th
- House Committee: Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight
- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

SB 490 - Hazardous Waste; amend certain definitions; update provisions to make consistent with federal regulations

- BILL SUMMARY: Revises and updates certain provisions concerning Georgia's hazardous waste laws to make the state's provisions consistent with federal provisions in effect as of February 1, 2010, as previously opposed to February 1, 1996.

- Authored By: Sen. Ross Tolleson of the 20th
- House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 154; Nays: 1

SB 491 - Civil Practice; grounds of exercise; personal jurisdiction over nonresidents involved in domestic relation cases; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill amends Georgia's long-arm statute to provide that the State may exercise personal jurisdiction over nonresidents involved in certain types of domestic relation cases.

- Authored By: Sen. Bill Cowser of the 46th
- House Committee: Judiciary
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Amendments(s): AM 29-0957 - Adopted: Rep. Willard
- Yeas: 149; Nays: 2

SB 518 - Education; require study of the pledge of allegiance to the flag of United States and

Georgia flag; American institutions and ideals

- BILL SUMMARY: The legislation adds a requirement that the pledge of allegiance and the history of the pledge be taught in Georgia Schools.

- Authored By: Sen. Jeff Mullis of the 53rd
- House Committee: Defense & Veterans Affairs
- Rule: Modified-Open
- Yeas: 157; Nays: 0

SB 519 - Motor Vehicles; motorized cart; modify definition; change hours of operation; provide local governments decide operators be licensed

- BILL SUMMARY: Amends Georgia code (40-1-1) relating to motorized carts. This bill states that carts may be operated on streets a half hour before sunrise and a half hour after sunset unless the local government or commissioner of public safety says the carts may be operated during the hours between sunset and sunrise. If the carts are allowed to operate during said hours they must have two headlights, two tail lamps, two brake lights, four turn signal lamps (two in front, two

in rear), a center high mount stop lamp (CHMSL), and a windshield.

AM 34-0445 - This amendment amends Code section 40-6-184 to provide a minimum fine for drivers who impede the flow of traffic by driving too slow except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation. The fine for a conviction of violating this Code section will be at least \$75.00 in addition to any other punishment authorized by law.

- Authored By: Sen. Jeff Mullis of the 53rd

- House Committee: Transportation

- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

SB 520 - Transportation Dept.; provide for an Intermodal Division within the department

- BILL SUMMARY: Code Section 32-2-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated is revised by revising paragraph (5) subsection (b) by adding an Intermodal Division to be supervised by an appointee serving at the pleasure of the commissioner to the Department of Transportation.

- Authored By: Sen. Jeff Mullis of the 53rd

- House Committee: Transportation

- A motion to agree represents final passage of this bill.

SB 523 - Georgia Sports Hall Of Fame Authority; reconstitute the governance; provide for new governing body for authority and its members

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill provides for a new composition of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority and allows the authority to appoint appropriate staff and to enter into cooperative agreements with a nonprofit corporation to assist with certain functions of the authority. This bill also requires the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and the Georgia Music Hall of Fame authorities to work jointly in order to realize efficiencies and economies in the operation of their adjacent facilities. This bill additionally requires both such authorities to conduct a review of proposals of new locations or alternative ownership in order to evaluate possible cost savings. It further places both authorities under the oversight of the Georgia Halls of Fame Authority Overview Committee.

- Authored By: Sen. Bill Cowser of the 46th

- House Committee: Economic Development & Tourism

- Rule: Modified-Structured

- Amendments(s): AM 14 0950
- Yeas: 149; Nays: 9

SB 536 - Chattahoochee Hills, City of; increase the homestead exemption ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes; residents 65 years of age or older

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to amend the charter of the City of Chattahoochee Hills by increasing the homestead exemption from city ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes for residents of that city who are 65 years of age or older and meet certain income requirements from \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead.
- Authored By: Sen. Donzella James of the 35th
- House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- Rule: Open
- Amendments(s): N/A
- Yeas: 130; Nays: 0

SENATE RESOLUTIONS:

SR 277 - Georgia Trauma Trust Fund; impose a charge on certain motor vehicle registrations; transferred to state treasury for purpose of funding - (Constitutional Amendment)

- BILL SUMMARY: Senate Resolution 277 proposes to amend the constitution to provide a dedicated source of revenue for trauma funding. It provides for an annual \$10 fee on all passenger vehicles (motor vehicles designed to carry 10 or fewer passengers) registered in this state. This fee will be collected at the same time and in the same manner as other license tag and registration fees required by law and shall be collected prior to the issuance of a license plate or revalidation decal. This trauma charge will not apply to vehicles owned by the state or its departments, agencies, or authorities or by any political subdivision of the state. Proceeds of this fee will be deposited monthly into the Georgia Trauma Trust Fund.
- Authored By: Sen. Greg Goggans of the 7th
- House Committee: Ways & Means
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 149; Nays: 14

SR 821 - Transportation Department; multiyear construction agreements-CA

- BILL SUMMARY: Calls for a referendum for a constitutional amendment to give the Governor and the General Assembly to allow funds for multiyear projects to be obligated in the year that the money is spent instead of obligating all funds at once.
- Authored By: Sen. David Shafer of the 48th
- House Committee: Transportation

- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 160; Nays: 2

SR 1231 - Governmental Energy Efficiency; authorize obligations of the state; vendors guarantee realization of specified savings to improvements-CA

- BILL SUMMARY: This resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize state multiyear contracts for governmental energy efficiency or conservation improvement projects in which vendors guarantee realization of specified savings or revenue gains attributable solely to the improvements.
- Authored By: Sen. Ronnie Chance of the 16th
- House Committee: State Institutions & Property
- Rule: Modified-Structured
- Yeas: 154; Nays: 2