



Georgia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday
March 8,
2021

DAILY REPORT

28th
Legislative
Day

House Budget & Research Office
(404) 656-5050

- The House will reconvene for its 29th Legislative Day on Tuesday, March 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Today on the Floor

Rules Calendar

HB 76 Public utilities and public transportation; percentage limitation as to the amount of the investments an electric membership corporation may make and maintain in a gas affiliate; modify

Bill Summary: House Bill 76 modifies the percentage limitation on the investments an electric membership corporation (EMC) may make and maintain in a gas affiliate.

Authored By: Rep. John Carson (46th)
House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications
Floor Vote: Yeas: 157 Nays: 11

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-16-2021 Do Pass
Amendments:

HB 86 Georgia Lottery Mobile Sports Wagering Integrity Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 86 allows the Georgia Lottery Corporation to offer and regulate the lottery game of sports wagering and amends the allowed shortfall reserve amount within the Lottery for Education Account.

For FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024, the Lottery for Education Account shortfall reserve fund shall not be more than 85 percent, 75 percent, and 65 percent of the average amount of net proceeds deposited into the account over the preceding three fiscal years, respectively. For FY 2025, the shortfall reserve fund shall not be more than 60 percent or less than 50 percent of the average amount of the preceding three fiscal years.

The bill also establishes the 'Georgia Lottery Mobile Sports Wagering Integrity Act'. The Act allows individuals 21 years of age and older, who are physically present Georgia, to place bets on certain sporting events through an interactive sports wagering platform that is licensed by the Georgia Lottery Corporation to accept sports bets in this state. Bets may be placed on professional sporting events, Olympic sporting events, or any other event authorized by the Georgia Lottery Corporation, but may not include collegiate sporting events, horse racing, or fantasy or simulated contests.

The bill provides the Georgia Lottery Corporation with all powers and duties necessary to regulate and supervise the lottery game of sports betting. Those powers include the authority to issue no fewer than six licenses to qualified applicants. The bill also provides requirements for the application for a license, which includes a non-refundable application fee of \$50,000 and an annual licensing fee of \$900,000. Certain individuals who are involved in the sports wagering industry and sport team, league, or associations are not eligible to apply for or obtain a license.

The Georgia Lottery Corporation shall establish rules and regulations related to the business requirements of the licensees. Those rules and regulations must include, but are not limited to, designating an amount of a bond in escrow and an amount of cash to be kept on hand to ensure adequate reserves, insurance requirements, controls over internal fiscal affairs, requirements for

internal and independent audits of licensees, the financial information to be provided to the Georgia Lottery Corporation, and policies designed to mitigate the risk of cheating and money laundering.

Licensees must utilize geolocation or geofencing technology to ensure that wagering is only available to bettors who are physically in this state and must allow bettors to restrict themselves from placing wagers.

All bettors must register with the licensee remotely prior to placing any bets. The registration process must verify the name, age, and email address of the bettor; verify that the bettor is allowed to bet in this state; and obtain a physical address, date of birth, and a unique username. Bettors are only allowed to register one account with a licensee and may fund the account using an electronic bank transfer of funds, a debit card, or other online payment systems that support money transfers.

The bill provides a list of individuals not allowed to wager on sporting events. The Georgia Lottery Corporation must maintain a confidential registry of all persons and categories of persons who are not eligible to place a wager on a sporting event and must provide that list to each licensee.

Licensees are not allowed to offer, accept, or extend credit to a bettor; target minors in advertising or promotions; offer or accept a wager on any event, outcome, or occurrence other than a sporting event; accept a wager from an individual not eligible to wager; or allow a minor to place a wager. Licensees are also not allowed to offer bets on injuries, penalties, or other forms of wagering that are contrary to public policy or unfair to bettors.

Licensees are able to use data from any source for determining the results of all live betting, including, but not limited to, official league data.

A tax of 20 percent shall be imposed on the adjusted gross income of each licensee. Adjusted gross income is the total of all money paid to the licensee as a bet minus the total amount paid out as winnings. The tax revenue and the revenue generated from application and annual fees shall be deposited into the Lottery for Education Account. The bill also exempts wagers authorized by the Georgia Lottery Corporation from sales and use tax.

Annual reports from each licensee are due to the Georgia Lottery Corporation by January 15 of each year. The annual reports must include the total amount of wagers from the prior year, the adjusted gross income for the prior year, and any additional information required by the Georgia Lottery Corporation.

Authored By:	Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)	Rule Applied:	Structured
House Committee:	Economic Development & Tourism	Committee Action:	02-22-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: Nays:	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Recommit to Rules		

HB 109 Child Victim Protection Act of 2021; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 109, the 'Child Victim Protection Act of 2021,' revises Section 9-3-33.1 of the Code, relating to actions for childhood sexual abuse. Civil actions for recovery of damages suffered as a result of childhood sexual abuse committed on or after July 1, 2015, may be brought within four years (extended from two years) from the date that the plaintiff knew or had reason to know of the abuse, and the abuse resulted in injury established by competent medical or psychological evidence.

Effective July 1, 2021, a plaintiff between the age of 23 and 38 years old may bring a civil action for recovery of damages because of childhood sexual abuse. When such actions are brought against a person who was a volunteer, or an employee of an entity with the duty to care for the plaintiff, or the person and the plaintiff were engaged in some activity under the control of the entity, damages will be only be awarded if there is a preponderance of evidence that: finds gross negligence on the part of the entity; the entity knew or should have known of the alleged conduct; and the entity failed to take remedial action.

A look-back period of one year is established as of July 1, 2021, during which a plaintiff of any age, who was previously barred by a statute of limitations, may file an action for recovery of damages suffered as a result of childhood sexual abuse against a perpetrator or an entity. If filed against an entity, the plaintiff must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the entity owed a duty of care to the plaintiff and: the entity knew of the abuse by an employee or volunteer and intentionally allowed the abuse to continue; or knew the employee or volunteer committed previous abuse against another individual and intentionally or fraudulently harbored, concealed, or withheld information about the prior act, resulting in the plaintiff's injury.

Actions against an entity shall not include actions or inactions occurring before July 1, 1988. Individual members or owners of unincorporated associations are not liable for the actions of the association. Sovereign and governmental immunity is expressly waived for actions pursued against entities during the look-back period.

Authored By:	Rep. Heath Clark (147th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Judiciary	Committee	02-23-2021 Do Pass by Committee
Committee:		Action:	Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 163 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 114 Income tax; adoption of foster children; revise tax credit

Bill Summary: House Bill 114 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.15, relating to the tax credit for adoption of a foster child, by increasing the current credit from \$2,000 to \$6,000 per foster child for the first five years of adoption and returning to \$2,000 per year until the child reaches the age of 18. Unused credits are non-refundable and cannot be carried forward to a future year's tax liability.

Authored By:	Rep. Albert Reeves (34th)	Rule Applied:	Structured
House	Ways & Means	Committee	03-03-2021 Do Pass
Committee:		Action:	
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 158 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 117 Low THC Oil Patient Registry; ulcerative colitis as a condition for which low THC oil may be used for treatment; add

Bill Summary: House Bill 117 adds ulcerative colitis to the conditions covered by the Low THC Oil Patient Registry, which allows for THC oil to be used for treatment.

Authored By:	Rep. Michael Wilensky (79th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Regulated Industries	Committee	02-23-2021 Do Pass
Committee:		Action:	
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 170 Nays: 2	Amendments:	

HB 138 Property; certain landlords shall provide certain notices to existing and prospective tenants with regard to certain crimes occurring on the premises being leased; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 138 requires that county and municipal law enforcement agencies post on the agency's website a monthly summary or list of certain crimes that occurred at an apartment building or complex that consists of ten or more rental units. The address of the apartment building or complex must be provided for each crime. "Apartment complex" is defined in the bill to mean a group of buildings that contain apartments situated in a single location that are all managed by a single entity. Such reports must be maintained on the agency's website for at least two years, and paper copies must be made available for the public. Any county or municipal law enforcement agency that employs less than ten full-time or part-time peace officers is excluded from the reporting requirement.

Authored By:	Rep. Mesha Mainor (56th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Judiciary	Committee	03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee
Committee:		Action:	Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 128 Nays: 34	Amendments:	

HB 160 Revenue and taxation; water and sewer projects and costs tax (MOST); provide for audits of tax by state auditor under certain conditions

Bill Summary: House Bill 160 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-200, relating to water and sewer projects and costs tax (MOST), by changing the definition of a "municipality" to include a municipality that operates a waste-water system that interconnects with the waste-water system of a municipality that has an average waste-water flow that is at least 85 million gallons per day. The bill also allows the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, or the lieutenant governor to order an independent and comprehensive audit of a MOST tax through the state auditor.

Authored By: Rep. William Boddie (62nd)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 167 Nays: 2

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee Action: 03-02-2021 Do Pass
Amendments:

HB 173 Retirement and pensions; eligible large retirement system's assets that may be invested in alternative investments; increase percentage

Bill Summary: House Bill 173 allows eligible large retirement systems to invest up to 10 percent of assets in alternative investments. The bill excludes the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) of Georgia and Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) of Georgia, which can currently invest up to five percent of assets in alternative investments. Also, the bill requires the ex-officio members and the governor's appointee of ERS's Board of Trustee to review and consider any individuals nominated by any organization of state retirees consisting of at least 1,000 employees. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

Authored By: Rep. Tommy Benton (31st)
House Committee: Retirement
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-02-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 194 Criminal procedure; term of probation shall follow mandatory term of imprisonment for persons convicted of a sexual offense; clarify

Bill Summary: House Bill 194 changes the name of the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board to the Sexual Offender Risk Review Board.

Section 2-1 adds additional punishment for those convicted of a sexual felony or an aggravated assault with the intent to rape by requiring those individuals to be sentenced for imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment to be followed by probation for life.

Section 2-2 adds additional punishment for those convicted of a kidnapping that involves a victim under the age of 14, except by a parent, if that person being convicted also was previously convicted of a sexual felony. The added punishment is imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. A condition of probation is electronic monitoring.

Section 2-3 adds additional punishment for those convicted of trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude if the convicted individual has also been convicted of that same offense previously. The added punishment is imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. A condition of probation is electronic monitoring.

Section 2-4 adds additional punishment for those convicted of rape if that person being convicted also was previously convicted of a sexual felony. The added punishment is imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. A condition of probation is electronic monitoring.

Section 2-5 adds additional punishment for those convicted of aggravated sodomy if that person being convicted also was previously convicted of a sexual felony. The added punishment is imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. A condition of probation is electronic monitoring.

Section 2-6 adds additional punishment to those convicted of statutory rape if that person being convicted also was previously convicted of a sexual felony when the individual convicted was 21-years old or older. The added punishment is imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. A condition of probation is electronic monitoring.

Section 2-7 adds additional punishment for those convicted of child molestation, or aggravated child molestation, if that person being convicted also was previously convicted of a sexual felony, with limited exceptions. The added punishment is imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. A condition of probation is electronic monitoring.

Section 2-8 adds additional punishment for those convicted of the felony offense of enticing a child for indecent purposes if that person being convicted also was previously convicted of a sexual felony. The added punishment is imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. A condition of probation is electronic monitoring.

Section 2-9 adds additional punishment for those convicted of the felony offense of improper sexual contact by employee, agent, or foster parent in the first degree if that person being convicted also was previously convicted of a sexual felony. The added punishment is imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. A condition of probation is electronic monitoring.

Section 2-10 adds additional punishment for those convicted of incest if that person being convicted also was previously convicted of a sexual felony. The added punishment is imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. A condition of probation is electronic monitoring.

Section 2-11 adds additional punishment for those convicted of aggravated sexual battery if that person being convicted also was previously convicted of a sexual felony. The added punishment is imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. A condition of probation is electronic monitoring.

Section 2-12 defines the term "sexual felony" as a felony conviction of various, listed crimes.

Section 2-14 adds additional punishment for those convicted of sexual exploitation of children if that person being convicted also was previously convicted of a sexual felony. The added punishment is imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. A condition of probation is electronic monitoring. Further, this section clarifies that each visual image, or depiction, constitutes a separate offense.

Section 3-1 changes the time that a defendant receiving a probated sentence has to report to the Risk Review Board to within 60 days of being sentenced.

Section 5-2 moves specific investigators from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board.

Section 5-3 clarifies the procedure for when a sexual offender moves from another state or territory to Georgia; the risk assessment process for sexually dangerous predators; and the timelines when risk assessment evaluations need to be made by the Board. A person receiving a Level II risk classification, or as a sexually dangerous predator, may request re-evaluation after 10 years from the initial classification and then once every five years thereafter.

Section 5-4 allows for a person on probation for life for a sexual felony to file a petition to terminate the probation after serving 10 years and if all restitution has been paid; probation has not been revoked; the probationer has not been arrested for anything other than a non-serious traffic offense; and the probationer has not been classified as a sexually dangerous predator by the Board. Upon issuing an order terminating an offender's probation, the court shall provide written notice to the local district attorney and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles regarding the court's intention, and the prosecuting attorney will be given an opportunity to be heard during the 30 days prior to the issuance of the termination order by the court. The provisions changed by this portion of the bill are

retroactive to any probationer under the supervision of the Department of Community Supervision.

Authored By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 110 Nays: 59

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 02-25-2021 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 231 Crimes and offenses; victims of stalking; expand applicability of protective orders

Bill Summary: House Bill 231 creates a separate temporary protective order (TPO) for dating violence that is not covered by a TPO for family violence. These TPOs cover felonies, simple battery, aggravated battery, aggravated assault, and stalking, so long as it is between two people with whom there has been a pregnancy together or who are in a "dating relationship". "Dating relationship" is defined as a committed, romantic relationship that involves an intimacy level above those of mere friends, although the definition does not require sexual involvement. A hearing shall be held on a filed petition within 10 days, at which time the petitioner must prove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence. The presiding judge shall consider the factors specifically outlined to confirm the existence of a dating relationship.

Authored By: Rep. Houston Gaines (117th)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 174 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 236 Domestic relations; additional monitoring of victim after granting of a temporary protective order; provide

Bill Summary: Under the provisions of this bill, when a temporary protective order is granted for relief from family violence, the petitioner may elect to receive periodic safety checks from local law enforcement officers, which include observations of the outside of the petitioner's residence and officer presence nearby the petitioner's residence. The petitioner elects to receive these safety checks by providing the local law enforcement agency with a copy of the temporary protective order.

If the petitioner elects to receive these safety checks, then the safety checks shall be ongoing for a total period of 60 days, with the individual checks occurring at the discretion of the local police agency. Prior to the 60-day period ending, the petitioner can withdraw his or her request, or the local police agency can determine that the petitioner no longer appears to require the safety checks.

Authored By: Rep. Yasmin Neal (74th)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 166 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 03-03-2021 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 247 Uniform rules of the road; commission of an offense of distracted driving; provide for penalties

Bill Summary: House Bill 247 removes a provision of the distracted driving law that allowed a first-time offender with a violation to provide proof to the judge that a hands-free device was purchased to comply with the law in order to be found not guilty.

Authored By: Rep. John Carson (46th)
House Public Safety & Homeland Security
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 119 Nays: 52

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 02-17-2021 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 255 Sexual Assault Reform Act of 2021; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 255 is the 'Sexual Assault Reform Act of 2021'. This bill requires sexual assault protocol committees to submit an annual certification of compliance to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, which will then notify the governor, lieutenant governor, state speaker of the House, and the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia of any noncompliant judicial circuits. This bill also clarifies language stating that it is a victim's right not to immediately report an alleged sexual assault and that the investigating law enforcement agency shall retain certain physical

evidence for at least 12 months from the date of collection.

Further, this bill creates a statewide sexual assault kit tracking system, to be operated by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The system will track the location and status of sexual assault kits as they move through the chain of custody; designate the kits as unreported or reported; allow certain medical facilities, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and other entities with custody of sexual assault kits to update the status and track the location of the kit; allow victims of sexual assault to anonymously track the status of their kits; and use technology to allow continuous access. This system will be phased-in, but the bill requires all entities having custody of kits to fully participate in the system by one year from the effective date of the bill.

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council will also be required to submit a status report and implementation plan for the system by January 1, 2021. Continued reports on the status of the system shall be submitted twice per year and include certain data, such as the total number of kits in the system, number of kits where forensic analysis has been completed; number of kits added to the system, rate of time for kits to be submitted for forensic analysis after being added to the system, number of kits destroyed or removed from the system, and number of kits for which forensic analysis has not been completed and one year has passed since being added to the system. Government agencies and hospitals providing services to victims of sexual assault will not be liable for civil damages due to a release of information, or failure to release information, related to the system, absent gross negligence.

Further, this bill requires each law enforcement agency in the state to enter required information into the FBI's national database of the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program for any investigations of an allegation of rape, aggravated sodomy, or aggravated assault with intent to rape, in which the alleged perpetrator is unrelated to the victim or is known to be a serial sexual offender. This applies retroactively to all pending investigations that meet the above criteria, although an exemption exists for offenses involving a victim between the ages of 14 and 16 and an alleged offender of 18 years old or younger, so long as the alleged offender is not more than four years older than the victim.

Authored By: Rep. Scott Holcomb (81st)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 174 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 03-03-2021 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 258 Crimes and offenses; response to State v. Williams, 2020 Ga. LEXIS 85; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 258 clarifies that consent of an alleged victim under the age of 16 is not a defense for crimes of sexual battery and aggravated sexual battery.

Authored By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 173 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 272 Juvenile Code; juvenile court to include children who are under 18 years of age; change jurisdiction

Bill Summary: House Bill 272 is the 'Raise the Age Act'. The bill increases the jurisdiction of the juvenile court to include children under the age of 18 and revises various references in the Code to reflect this change. The bill establishes an implementation committee, which consists of 10 members and is responsible for conferring with appropriate agencies and interested parties regarding standards and practices of other jurisdictions; the most recent national standards; and the interested parties' views.

Authored By: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd)
House Juvenile Justice
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 113 Nays: 51

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 02-18-2021 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 290 Hospitals and nursing homes; policy during a declared public health emergency that limits patients' abilities to be visited by designated family members and friends; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 290, known as the 'Patient and Resident Representation and Visitation Act,' prohibits a hospital or long-term care facility from implementing any policy that limits a patient or resident's access to in-person physical contact with a designated legal representative for less than one hour per day during any hospitalization, treatment, or residence that last longer than 12 hours. For patients in operating rooms, transplant wards, or requiring physical isolation for immunocompromised conditions, the attending physician may restrict or postpone a patient's access to in-person physical contact with their designated legal representative for up to 48 hours. The governor cannot waive or otherwise limit these provisions, including during a public health emergency. Hospitals and long-term care facilities may impose reasonable safety requirements and must post these requirements on the facility's website.

HB 290 also prohibits long-term care facilities from implementing any policy that limits a resident's ability to have in-person physical contact with at least two legal representatives or essential caregivers for no less than a single period of two hours each day for any treatment or residence that lasts longer than 24 hours. Long-term care facilities may impose reasonable safety requirements and must post these requirements on the facility's website.

The bill allows for instances when a hospital or long-term care facility may temporarily suspend or terminate the access of a legal representative as well as allows for a patient to bring civil action in court for the failure of a hospital, long-term care facility, or governmental entity to comply with the provisions in this bill. Additionally, the bill allows for instances when a long-term care facility may temporarily suspend or terminate the access of an essential caregiver as well as allows for any patient or essential caregiver to bring civil action in court for the failure of a long-term care facility or governmental entity to comply with the provisions in this bill.

The provisions of this bill are conditions for hospitals and nursing homes to obtain operational permits and begin on July 1, 2021.

The Department of Community Health shall establish rules and regulations for the provisions of this bill and is authorized to take civil, disciplinary, or administrative action against any hospital or long-term care facility for non-compliance with the provisions in the bill.

Authored By:	Rep. Ed Setzler (35th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Human Relations & Aging	Committee Action:	03-01-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 113 Nays: 57	Amendments:	

HB 291 Education; tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities; expand definition of approved school

Bill Summary: House Bill 291 amends O.C.G.A. 20-3-411 to expand eligibility to receive tuition equalization grants to include higher education institutions with a current physical presence in Georgia for at least five years, accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and accreditation from either the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. These institutions must also have a four-year average passage rate of at least 85 percent for the National Council Licensure Examination and admit students who have a high school diploma, GED diploma, or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution. Eligible institutions do not include Bible schools or colleges, or graduate schools or colleges of theology or divinity.

Authored By:	Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Higher Education	Committee Action:	03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 169 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 317 Excise tax; revise definition of innkeeper to include marketplace facilitators; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 317 amends Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 48, relating to excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, by expanding the definition of "innkeeper" to include any dealer that is required to collect and remit sales tax as a marketplace facilitator for facilitating the sale of rooms, lodgings, or accommodations. The definition expansion requires the innkeepers acting as marketplace facilitators to collect and remit the local excise taxes due on rooms, lodgings, or accommodations. The bill also modifies the five-dollar hotel/motel excise tax found in O.C.G.A. 48-13-50.3 to apply to all rooms, lodgings, or accommodations, with the exception of extended stay rentals, lodgings, or accommodations that do not provide shelter.

Authored By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 147 Nays: 22

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee Action: 02-18-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 327 Organized Retail Crime Prevention Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 327 is the 'Organized Retail Crime Prevention Act'.

The bill adds several requirements for the resale of gift cards by merchants who specialize in the sale of gift cards that are not authorized by the corporate issuer nor its agent and refers to these merchants as "third-party card dealers." These third-party card dealers must maintain records for three years on applicable data, including, the date of transaction; name of the person conducting the transaction; name, age, and address of the seller; a description of the general appearance of the customer and the customer's driver's license number; and value amount on the gift card and the price paid. These entries must be open to the inspection of authorized law enforcement officers during ordinary business hours or at any other reasonable time.

Further, this bill creates a misdemeanor offense for a third-party card dealer, or its agents or employees, who knowingly fails to make an entry of any material matter in the records; makes any false entry; falsifies, destroys, or removes the record book; refuses to allow an authorized law enforcement agent to inspect the records or any stored gift card; or fails to maintain a record of each required transaction for at least four years.

Part 3 of the bill revises the Code to say that the definition of "retail property" for purposes of retail property fencing, civil forfeiture, or other matters is not required to be new items. The definition of "conviction" is also broadened for purposes of the crimes of theft by shoplifting and refund fraud to include pleas of nolo contendere.

HB 327 creates a felony crime for organized retail theft, which occurs when a person intentionally organizes others to steal property of a store for purposes of reselling that property for monetary gain. The aggregate value of the property must be \$25,000 or more, and the property must be fenced to another for resale or intended to be. The punishment for the crime is imprisonment of between three to 20 years, a fine of more than \$50,000, or both.

Authored By: Rep. Martin Momtahan (17th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Floor Vote: Yeas: 120 Nays: 48

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-03-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 343 Game and fish; rebuttable presumption of violation by individuals in possession of hunting paraphernalia while on others' lands; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 343 states that an individual in possession of certain hunting paraphernalia creates a rebuttable presumption that the individual has not obtained permission to hunt on private lands. The bill provides a peace officer with the discretion to enforce this Code section.

The fine for a second violation in a two-year period is increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500, and the fine for a third violation in a two-year period is increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Authored By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th)
House Committee: Game, Fish, & Parks
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-16-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 346 Jarom's Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 346 authorizes emergency medical service providers to administer hydrocortisone sodium intramuscularly for the purpose of providing emergency care to a patient who: has congenital adrenal hyperplasia; is in adrenal crisis; is in possession of hydrocortisone sodium succinate in packaging that clearly states the appropriate dosage and has an unbroken seal.

Authored By: Rep. Dominic LaRiccica (169th)
House Committee: Health & Human Services
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-02-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 383 State government; certain contracts; Israel; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 383 prohibits the state from entering into a contract valued at \$100,000 or more with an individual or company without written certification that the individual or company is not and will not be participating in a boycott of Israel; provided that the subject of the contract might be affected by participation in the boycott.

Authored By: Rep. John Carson (46th)
House Committee: Governmental Affairs
Floor Vote: Yeas: 150 Nays: 18

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-24-2021 Do Pass
Amendments:

HB 411 Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission; create

Bill Summary: House Bill 411 creates the Prosecuting Attorneys' Oversight Commission, which consists of a five-member investigative panel and a three-member hearing panel. The investigative panel is responsible for investigating alleged conduct that constitutes grounds for discipline, which is specifically outlined in the bill and includes various grounds such as mental or physical incapacity; willful misconduct in office; willful and persistent failure to perform duties; conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude; conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice; allowing an assistant district attorney or assistant solicitor-general to commit acts that would constitute removal; and violating the State Bar of Georgia's Rules of Professional Conduct. Complaints made to the investigative panel are required to show evidence that constitutes a ground for discipline, and if the complaint makes an allegation on the basis of a charging decision, plea offer, or one of the other specific issues in the bill, then the complaint must also show that it was plausible that the decision was made based on one of the specific criteria, such as undo bias or an undisclosed conflict of interest.

Authored By: Rep. Joseph Gullett (19th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Floor Vote: Yeas: 104 Nays: 61

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-03-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 428 Sales and use tax; change certain definitions

Bill Summary: House Bill 428 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-3, relating to exemptions from sales and use taxes, by updating the NAICS codes for the sales and use tax exemption for the sale of certain computer equipment when the total qualifying purchases by a high technology company exceed \$15 million. The bill also requires high-technology companies that have been issued a sales tax exemption certificate to report annually to the commissioner a list of facilities for which equipment exempted from sales tax is located as well as the amount of taxes exempted during the preceding year.

Authored By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee Action: 03-02-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 435 Local government; exempt certain contracts competitively procured by the state or cooperative purchasing organizations

Bill Summary: House Bill 435 provides an exemption, subject to government approval, to the "Georgia Local Government Public Works Construction Law" for public works construction contracts that were competitively procured by the state or through a cooperative purchasing organization.

Authored By:	Rep. Victor Anderson (10th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Governmental Affairs	Committee Action:	02-24-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 157 Nays: 9	Amendments:	

HB 454 Insurance; certain coverage requirements concerning providers that become out-of-network during a plan year; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 454 requires an insurer to reimburse a provider at the most recent in-network rates for 90 days after a provider's contract terminates or until the last day of a person's coverage, whichever is sooner, if the insurer's provider directory included a provider as a participating provider during the open enrollment period.

Authored By:	Rep. Mark Newton (123rd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care	Committee Action:	02-24-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 173 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 464 Guardian and ward; petition for appointment of temporary guardian of minor filed in probate court may be transferred to juvenile court; provide

Bill Summary: This bill clarifies that a probate court can transfer proceedings involving the appointment of a temporary guardian for a minor to a juvenile court. Further, the bill clarifies that conduct of the parties can be considered in certain proceedings and expands the definition of "abuse, neglect, or exploitation" to include various crimes committed against a minor, proposed ward, or ward, including trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude; abuse, child abuse, and coercion; serious violent felonies; and sexual exploitation.

Authored By:	Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (14th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Juvenile Justice	Committee Action:	02-25-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 163 Nays: 7	Amendments:	

HB 465 Local government; imposing civil penalties upon an alarm systems contractor for a false alarm that occurs through no fault of alarm systems contractor; prohibit

Bill Summary: House Bill 465 allows a local government to establish ordinances requiring alarm system contractors to pay fines or fees as a result of a false alarm only when the false alarm is attributed to the alarm system contractor's error. If the false alarm was not due to the contractor's error, the local government may hold the property owner responsible for any fines, fees, or other penalties related to the false alarm.

Authored By:	Rep. Joseph Gullett (19th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Governmental Affairs	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 113 Nays: 52	Amendments:	

HB 469 Income tax; rehabilitation of historic structures; revise tax credits

Bill Summary: House Bill 469 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.8, relating to tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures, by extending the sunset on the current provision of the credit to December 31, 2022, and returning the provisions of the credit as they existed on January 1, 2015.

The bill also establishes an income tax credit of \$2,500 per zero-emission motor vehicle assembled in this state for manufacturers whose principal place of business and sole manufacturing facility is located in Georgia. The credit has an annual five million dollar cap and sunsets on July 1, 2024.

Authored By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 167 Nays: 2

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee Action: 03-02-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 479 Criminal procedure; revise certain arrest powers; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 479 repeals the citizen's arrest statute from the Code, provides instances in which law enforcement officers may make arrest outside of their jurisdiction, and establishes when certain private citizens may detain individuals.

Law enforcement officers may make an arrest for an offense outside of their jurisdiction: if the offense is committed in an officer's presence or within an officer's immediate knowledge; when in immediate pursuit of an offender for an offense committed within the officer's jurisdiction; or while assisting another law enforcement officer in the jurisdiction of the other officer.

Owners and employees of a retail establishment may detain an individual if they reasonably believe that the individual committed, or attempted to commit, theft by shoplifting, refund fraud, or theft by unlawful use of receipts or Universal Product Code labels. Owners and employees of a food service establishment may detain an individual if they reasonably believe that the individual committed, or attempted to commit, theft by taking or theft of services. Weight inspectors with the Motor Carrier Compliance Enforcement Section of the Department of Public Safety when needed for purposes of his or her duties, and licensed or registered private detective or private security businesses when conducting their business, may detain individuals. Any of these private persons who detain an individual shall either release the individual or contact law enforcement within a reasonable time. Any individual detained by these private persons who is not released shall be surrendered to a law enforcement officer along with any personal belongings removed from the individual.

Nothing in this bill shall be construed to limit or alter any immunity or defense provided under Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 16. Except in circumstances involving use of force in defense of self or others, involving use of force in defense of habitation, or involving use of force to prevent the commission of a forcible felony, any of the private persons provided for in the bill who detain an individual shall not use force which is intended or likely to cause great bodily harm or death, but may use reasonable force to the extent the private person reasonably believes is necessary to detain the individual.

Code Section 51-7-60, relating to the preclusion of recovery for detention or arrest of persons suspected of shoplifting, is amended to conform to the provisions created by the bill.

Authored By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th)
House Committee: Judiciary
Floor Vote: Yeas: 173 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 495 Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board; revise duties

Bill Summary: House Bill 495 provides that the analysis of criminal history record information of an offender be provided by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board if the board requests such for assistance in determining a sexual offender's risk assessment classification. The legislation authorizes the board to employ investigators to complete the analysis of information, including but not limited to, criminal history record information, in determining risk assessment. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is required to maintain at least one position under its administration and supervision who will facilitate the provision of the summarized criminal history record information to the board from the Georgia Crime Information Center and the National Crime Information Center.

Authored By:	Rep. Clint Crowe (110th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Public Safety & Homeland Security	Committee Action:	03-04-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 172 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 498 Ad valorem tax; property; expand an exemption for agricultural equipment and certain farm products

Bill Summary: House Bill 498 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-41.1, relating to the exemption of qualified farm products and harvested agricultural products from taxation, by adding dairy products and unfertilized eggs of poultry to the list of qualified farm products and by modifying the definition of "family-owned farm entity." Family-owned farm entity is expanded to allow an entity created by the merger or consolidation of two or more entities that would qualify independently as a family-owned farm entity. The bill requires approval by referendum and includes ballot language for the November 2022 election.

Authored By:	Rep. Sam Watson (172nd)	Rule Applied:	Structured
House Committee:	Ways & Means	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 169 Nays: 1	Amendments:	

HB 517 Education; calculation of minimum revenue obligations for scholarships and tuition grants; provide for the inclusion of earned interest

Bill Summary: House Bill 517 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2A-2 relating to student scholarship organizations by clarifying that interest earned on deposits and investments from donations for scholarships or tuition grants will be rolled back into the fund. This Code section is further amended by requiring an audit within 120 days of completing the student scholarship organization's fiscal year to be provided to the Department of Revenue within 60 days of the audit's completion. O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.16 is amended to increase the tax credit to \$2,500 for a single individual or head of household, \$5,000 for a married couple filing a joint return, and \$25,000 or the amount expended for a business, whichever is less.

Authored By:	Rep. John Carson (46th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Education	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 98 Nays: 71	Amendments:	

HB 520 State government; promotion and deployment of broadband services; revise a definition

Bill Summary: House Bill 520 removes the word "terrestrial" from the broadband services definition in Code. The bill will become effective on January 1, 2022.

Authored By:	Rep. Philip Singleton (71st)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 51 Nays: 108	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Failed		

HB 532 Labor, Department of; employment security; change certain provisions

Bill Summary: HB 532 revises language regarding waivers of work-search requirements to reflect that waivers cannot be made if they would conflict with federal law. The definition of "eligibility period" in relation to extended benefits is revised to remove various potential situations and note that the period only consists of the weeks in the benefit year. The bill also creates an exception to the traditional end of benefits by allowing for extended benefits through November 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021. The bill further clarifies language regarding when the "state 'on' indicator" occurs in relation to the 'Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970.'

Authored By:	Rep. William Werkheiser (157th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Industry and Labor	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 165 Nays: 5	Amendments:	

HB 534 Crimes and offenses; promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags; provide for offense

Bill Summary: House Bill 534 establishes a crime and penalty for promoting, organizing, or participating in illegal drag racing or laying drags, as well as reckless stunt driving. The violator of this law is guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and faces suspension of his or her driver's license and possible imprisonment. Penalties graduate based on the number of convictions a person receives.

Authored By:	Rep. Josh Bonner (72nd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Public Safety & Homeland Security	Committee Action:	03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 130 Nays: 39	Amendments:	

HB 544 State government; composition of the board of directors of the lottery; change

Bill Summary: House Bill 544 amends Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., relating to lottery for education.

The bill provides for two additional individuals to the Lottery Board who have experience with the Coin-operated Amusement Machine (COAM) industry, one is the chairperson of the COAM board and the governor appoints the other.

The maximum redemption award on a per play basis for a Class A machine is increased to the wholesale value of \$50.

The bill provides for on-site inspection of new location license holders by Georgia Lottery Corporation's COAM division within six months of operation for a compliance review of COAM locations and states that a license is not to be denied based upon it being a new business or based upon the number of other licenses in the area.

Late fees for renewal applications are established at \$125 for Class A licenses and \$1,000 for Class B licenses and allows for manufacturer, distributor, or master license or location licenses that are over 90 days expired to be renewed with a late fee of \$2,000. Sales of master licenses, location licenses, master license contracts, and coin operated amusement machines are only allowed by public auction and not by private sale.

The bill establishes a hearing officer procedure for license appeals. The COAM Board shall identify 10 to 14 persons from whom the governor shall select five to seven to serve as hearing officers. Cases are assigned to hearing officers as the cases arise, and hearing officers will not be selected for specific cases. In all hearings, the Georgia Lottery Corporation shall have the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence. If it facilitates the resolution of a dispute, the parties may agree to submit the dispute to mediation or binding arbitration.

Appeals of the actions of the Georgia Lottery Corporation shall be taken as judicial reviews of contested cases in 50-13-19 of the O.C.G.A. and shall be a de novo review of the case limited to the record before the Georgia Lottery Corporation. If the CEO of the Georgia Lottery Corporation fails to take action on a decision of a hearing officer within 30 days of a decision, the appeal may be taken directly to the Business Court of the Superior Court of Fulton County.

The bill states that gross receipts shall be calculated on a quarterly basis and the value of gift cards shall be constituted as gross income receipts at the time of sale or issuance to the customer. Any location owner or operator who has less than 50 percent of gross retail receipts from non-amusement revenue is subject to the following penalties: for the first violation in a two-year period, the difference between the gross revenues from COAMs and the gross revenue from other sources plus 10 percent of the difference; for the second violation in a two-year period, the difference between the gross revenues from COAMs and the gross revenue from other sources plus 50 percent of the difference; and for a third and subsequent violations in a two-year period, a suspension or revocation of the location license. The penalties do not apply to 501(c)(3) charitable organizations that have a bingo license or have been in existence for at least 10 years.

House Bill 544 states that no one, including master license holders, shall provide funds or anything of value to location owners or location operators for any purpose for prizes for winning players of COAMs. Master license owners shall not enroll players in a player tracking system or offer plays or replays on a COAM to a player without the express consent and knowledge of that player. The master license holders are allowed to place signage within the amusement area that promotes Class B play and explains the non-cash redemption law.

By November 30, 2021, the advisory board shall consider recommendations regarding the creation and implementation of a computerized redemption system to track all player redemptions and provide players with an instrument to interact with the COAM at the location and place credits or remove them from COAMs. By July 1, 2022, the Georgia Lottery Corporation shall create and provide a lottery gift card. The lottery gift card may be awarded to winning players of Class A and Class B machines and may be redeemed for items allowed as non-cash redemption. Lottery gift cards shall only be issued by licensed location owners or location operators and lottery retailers, and the Georgia Lottery Corporation shall each receive 50 cents from the sale of each lottery gift card.

Authored By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd)
House Committee: Regulated Industries
Floor Vote: Yeas: 110 Nays: 54

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-25-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 562 Criminal procedure; add DFCS case managers to people for whom arrest warrants may be issued only by certain judicial officers

Bill Summary: HB 562 requires that an arrest warrant of a Department of Family Child Services (DFCS) case manager, being brought for an offense alleged to have been committed while in the official's work capacity, be issued by a superior court judge, state court judge, or probate court judge.

Authored By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-04-2021 Do Pass
Amendments:

HB 567 Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee; create

Bill Summary: House Bill 567 authorizes the Department of Public Health (DPH) to promulgate rules and regulations creating a newborn screening system for the prevention of serious illness, severe physical or developmental disability, and death caused by inherited metabolic and genetic disorders.

Additionally, this bill establishes the Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee that consists of no less than 11, nor more than 21 members, appointed by the DPH commissioner. This committee will consider and make recommendations to the commissioner related to the inclusion of screening for any disorder added to the federal recommended uniform screening panel within one year of an addition. As part of such recommendations, the advisory committee will advise the commissioner on the estimated cost to DPH for screening for new disorders.

Authored By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd)
House Committee: Health & Human Services
Floor Vote: Yeas: 166 Nays: 2

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-02-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 575 Ad valorem tax; authorize on premises processing and marketing of agricultural products as a qualifying conservation use

Bill Summary: House Bill 575 adds a new Code section relating to Local Option Sales Taxes that allows any consolidated government created by the consolidation of a county and one or more municipalities to impose an additional one percent local option sales tax. The additional one percent must be approved by a resolution of the governing authority of the consolidated government. A referendum on the additional one percent must also be approved. Following the imposition of the additional tax, the consolidated government imposing the tax must reduce the millage rate for ad valorem taxation of tangible property. For the year following the initial year of imposition, the

millage rate for ad valorem taxation must be reduced by seven mills and for the following years, the millage rate for ad valorem taxation must be reduced by an amount that in aggregate equals the amount of revenue generated by the additional one percent local option sales tax. The additional one percent expires after five years and must be approved by referendum to be continued.

Authored By:	Rep. Robert Dickey (140th)	Rule Applied:	Structured
House Committee:	Ways & Means	Committee Action:	03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 162 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 579 Public Safety and Judicial Facilities Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 579 removes the requirement that public safety and judicial authorities must pass a referendum in order to issue bonds for new projects.

Authored By:	Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver (82nd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Governmental Affairs	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 169 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 582 Cherokee County; probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections

Bill Summary: House Bill 582 provides that the future elections of the Cherokee County probate judge will be non-partisan.

Authored By:	Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd)	Rule Applied:	Structured
House Committee:	Intragovernmental Coordination	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 119 Nays: 46	Amendments:	

HB 611 State government; definition of small business; change

Bill Summary: House Bill 611 divides the state "small business" definition into three tiers. Tier One has 10 or fewer employees or \$1 million or less in gross receipts per year. Tier Two has 100 or fewer employees or \$10 million or less in gross receipts per year. Tier Three has 300 or fewer employees or less than \$30 million or less in gross receipts a year.

Authored By:	Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Small Business Development	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 169 Nays: 3	Amendments:	

HB 617 Postsecondary education; student athletes may receive compensation for use of name, image, or likeness; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 617 creates O.C.G.A. 20-3-680 to allow student athletes to receive compensation for the use of the athlete's name, image, or likeness as long as such compensation is not in exchange to attend, participate, or perform at a particular postsecondary education institution. HB 617 requires the postsecondary institution to provide a financial literacy and life skills workshop at the beginning of the student's first and third academic years.

Authored By:	Rep. Chuck Martin (49th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Higher Education	Committee Action:	03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 171 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 619 Heritage trust program; sale of Patrick's Fishing Paradise to a private entity; authorize

Bill Summary: HB 619 allows for the removal of a heritage preserve designation from land known as "Patrick's Fishing Paradise" to allow the Department of Natural Resources to convey the property to a private entity. The conveyance is subject to the approval of the General Assembly and the State Properties Commission.

Authored By:	Rep. Penny Houston (170th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	State Properties	Committee	03-02-2021 Do Pass
Committee:		Action:	
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 174 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 631 Georgia Crime Information Center; develop a system to collect information on an individual's ability to communicate with law enforcement or emergency responders; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 631 establishes the requirement for the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority to provide standards for operation and maintenance of an information system by a local government within an emergency 9-1-1 system which supports the collection, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of information, voluntarily submitted, indicating that an individual has a physical, mental, or neurological condition which impedes their ability to communicate with a law enforcement officer or emergency responder.

Authored By:	Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Public Safety & Homeland Security	Committee	03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee
Committee:		Action:	Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 169 Nays: 1	Amendments:	

HB 653 Georgia Pharmacy Practice Act; pharmacy care; revise definition

Bill Summary: House Bill 653 expands the definition of "pharmacy care" by including the ordering and administering of tests that have been cleared or approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, such as viral and serology COVID-19 tests. A pharmacist conducting these tests will only do so at a pharmacy or other facility that is approved under a certificate of waiver from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Authored By:	Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Health & Human Services	Committee	03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee
Committee:		Action:	Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 170 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 676 Georgia Farmers' Market and Produce Terminal Development Authority Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 676 creates the Georgia Farmers' Market and Produce Terminal Development Authority and assigns it to the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes. The authority is responsible for the operation, administration, and supervision of the state's farmers' markets as well as provides facilities and activities to promote the agricultural community's products to agribusiness entities and the public.

The authority has 10 members, comprised of nine appointed members as well as the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture. The governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the House are to appoint three members each. Of the three members, two must represent the state's agriculture and business interests and one must represent the interests of consumers. Members appointed initially will serve staggered terms as follows: three members for one year, three members for two years, and three members for three years. All subsequent terms will be for four years.

HB 676 grants the authority the ability to build, manage, and operate property owned or leased by either the authority or the state of Georgia. All funds received as grants, revenues, rents, and earnings are to be trust funds to be held and applied as stated in Title 2, Chapter 23 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The authority may issue bonds for which the principal and interest may only be paid using the authority's fund.

Any legal action taken by or against the authority is to be brought in the Superior Court of Tift County. Legal services for the authority will be provided by the attorney general.

A legislative advisory committee shall provide oversight to the authority and be comprised of the chairs of the House and Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committees, as well as one appointee each by the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate.

Authored By:	Rep. Penny Houston (170th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Agriculture & Consumer Affairs	Committee Action:	03-03-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 166 Nays: 3	Amendments:	

HB 681 Education; course of study in financial literacy for students in tenth or eleventh grade; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 681 requires the State Board of Education to prescribe a program of study in personal financial literacy during high school. The program will include the following areas: types of bank accounts; balancing a checking account; money management; investments; postsecondary education financial planning; completing loan applications; receiving inheritance; basics of personal insurance policies; and other financial transactions regularly entered into during adulthood. Each local board of education shall begin a financial literacy program in the 2021-2022 school year.

Authored By:	Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Education	Committee Action:	03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 169 Nays: 2	Amendments:	

HB 693 Motor vehicles; operation of farm tractors on interstate highways; prohibit

Bill Summary: House Bill 693 prohibits farm tractors from being driven on any highway in the state unless deemed necessary by the Department of Public Safety for travel in certain geographic areas of the state. Operators must take reasonable steps to reduce the width of farm tractors. If the width of a farm tractor is more than a roadway or more than half the width of a roadway without marked lanes, the operator shall safely move the tractor as far to the right-hand side of the roadway as possible.

If a farm tractor or implement of husbandry cannot be moved to the far right-hand side of a roadway, drivers of other vehicles must yield the right-of-way to the tractor or implement of husbandry.

Authored By:	Rep. Steven Meeks (178th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Agriculture & Consumer Affairs	Committee Action:	03-03-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 172 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 697 Health care data collection; hospitals maintain certain technology; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 697, known as the 'Patient Protection Through Health Information Exchange Act,' amends the list of information from health care providers that must be reported annually to the Department of Community Health. A hospital or a hospital's electronic health records vendor must report the current status of implementing or using meaningful electronic health records user standards, interoperability standards, and certified electronic health records technology standards. This reporting requirement does not apply to any hospital with a primary campus in a rural county with a population of 50,000 or less.

Additionally, the bill requires hospitals or each hospital's electronic health records vendor to complete a survey by October 1, 2021 regarding whether the hospital uses or has barriers to using electronic health records, interoperability of health information, and certified health records technology as well as whether the hospital has a timeline for using electronic health records. The Department of Community Health must submit a report to the House and Senate Health and Human Services Committees by July 1, 2022, that includes the results of the survey and recommendations for statewide electronic health records requirements and standards.

This Code section is repealed on July 2, 2022.

Authored By:	Rep. Mark Newton (123rd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 172 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 714 Georgia Civil Practice Act; revise and provide for new requirements

Bill Summary: House Bill 714 amends the 'Georgia Civil Practice Act' to provide that the material terms currently required to be contained in a settlement offer for personal injury claims arising from a motor vehicle collision shall be the only required terms for such settlement offer, unless the parties otherwise agree to include additional terms. When making an offer to settle, the offeror must include medical or other records related to the claim that can be reasonably obtained and sufficient to allow the recipient to evaluate the claim. An offer to settle may also include a requirement that a recipient provide a statement, under oath, that all insurance issued by the recipient that provides coverage for the claim at issue has been disclosed to the offeror or claimant.

Settlement offers for personal injury claims arising from a motor vehicle collision must now also include an address, facsimile number, or email address to which a written acceptance may be provided. Any payment requirement included in a settlement shall not have a payment deadline of less than 40 days from the receipt of the offer.

The bill also amends Code Section 33-7-11, relating to motor vehicle insurance, to allow an insured party to collect either 25 percent of the recovery or \$25,000, whichever is greater, from an insurer if the insurer refuses in bad faith to pay the insured after the insured makes a demand to be paid. Currently, the Code limits an insured party from collecting above 25 percent of the recovery.

Authored By:	Rep. Trey Kelley (16th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System	Committee Action:	03-05-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 137 Nays: 31	Amendments:	

HR 24 Lucci, Dominic Brian; compensate

Bill Summary: House Resolution 24 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay Dominic Brian Lucci \$1,000,000 in the form of an annuity paid in equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of \$50,000.

Authored By:	Rep. Derek Mallow (163rd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Appropriations	Committee Action:	02-26-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 154 Nays: 12	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Adopted (Resolution)		

HR 25 Jones, Mark Jason; compensate

Bill Summary: House Resolution 25 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay Mark Jason Jones \$1,000,000 in the form of an annuity paid in equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of \$50,000.

Authored By:	Rep. Derek Mallow (163rd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Appropriations	Committee Action:	02-26-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 149 Nays: 9	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Adopted (Resolution)		

HR 26 Gardiner, Kenneth Eric; compensate

Bill Summary: House Resolution 26 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay Kenneth Eric Gardiner \$1,000,000 in the form of an annuity paid in equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of \$50,000.

Authored By:	Rep. Derek Mallow (163rd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Appropriations	Committee Action:	02-26-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 150 Nays: 12	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Adopted (Resolution)		

HR 29 Robinson, Mr. Jakeith Bendray, Sr.; compensate

Bill Summary: House Resolution 29 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay Jakeith Bendray Robinson, Sr. \$560,000 in the form of an annuity paid in equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of \$50,000.

Authored By:	Rep. Carolyn Hugley (136th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Appropriations	Committee Action:	02-26-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 133 Nays: 29	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Adopted (Resolution)		

HR 144 Katie Poff Memorial Interchange; Baldwin County; dedicate

Bill Summary: House Resolution 144 is the annual House road dedication bill. Included are the following resolutions:

HR 144, dedicating the intersection at State Route 49 and Blandy Road in Baldwin County as the Kathryn Poff Memorial Intersection;

HR 22, dedicating the interchange at State Route 81 and State Route 316/US 29 in Barrow County as the Judy Hill Loftin, LPC Memorial Interchange;

HR 32, dedicating the bridge on State Route 515 at Turniptown Creek in Gilmer County as the Cecil Mathews Memorial Bridge;

HR 54, dedicating the portion of State Route 8 from the Gwinnett/Barrow County line to Cedars Road in Gwinnett County as the Jimmy Wilbanks Highway;

HR 145, dedicating the bridge on State Route 22 adjacent to 603 West Montgomery Street in Baldwin County as the Dennette Odum Jackson Memorial Bridge; and

HR 148, dedicating the intersection at US 27 and Commerce Street in Chattooga County as the Probate Judge Jon Payne Memorial Intersection.

Authored By:	Rep. Ricky Williams (145th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Transportation	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 165 Nays: 0	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Adopted (Resolution)		

HR 183 Congress; pass Recovering America's Wildlife Act; urge

Bill Summary: House Resolution 183 urges Congress to pass the 'Recovering America's Wildlife Act.'

Authored By:	Rep. David Knight (130th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Game, Fish, & Parks	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 171 Nays: 0	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Adopted (Resolution)		

HR 204 Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr. Juvenile Justice Center; City of Savannah; dedicate

Bill Summary: House Resolution 204 dedicates the Department of Juvenile Justice's Savannah Regional Youth Detention Center in Savannah, Georgia as the Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr. Juvenile Justice Center.

Authored By:	Rep. Carl Gilliard (162nd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	State Properties	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 171 Nays: 0	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Adopted (Resolution)		

HR 248 Savannah Logistics Technology Innovation Corridor; designate

Bill Summary: HR 248 establishes all of Chatham County, Bryan County, Effingham County, Bulloch County, and Liberty County as the official technology innovation corridor in the state of Georgia.

Authored By:	Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Economic Development & Tourism	Committee Action:	03-04-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 172 Nays: 0	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Adopted (Resolution)		

HR 282 Sydnie Grace Jones Memorial Intersection; dedicate

Bill Summary: House Resolution 282 dedicates the intersection of State Route 515 and State Route 325 in Union County as the Sydnie Grace Jones Memorial Intersection.

Authored By:	Rep. Stan Gunter (8th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Transportation	Committee Action:	03-02-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 169 Nays: 0	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Adopted (Resolution)		

Local Calendar**HB 680 Stewart County; Board of Commissioners; revise provisions relating to purchases and bids**

Bill Summary: House Bill 680 revises provisions relating to purchases and bids of the Stewart County Board of Commissioners. Any bid or proposal for goods or services valued at \$40,000 or more must be advertised for two weeks in the official legal organ of the county and in the Georgia Procurement Registry managed by the Georgia Department of Administrative Services State Purchasing Division. Formal sealed bids are required for purchases that exceed \$100,000.

Authored By:	Rep. Gerald Greene (151st)	Rule Applied:	
House Committee:	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	Committee Action:	03-05-2021 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 157 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

SB 22 Board of Commissioners of Henry County; a code of ethics; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 22 revises provisions regarding vacancies on the Henry County Board of Commissioners, provides for a code of ethics, establishes a board of ethics, and revises the authority, roles, and responsibilities of the chairperson, board of commissioners, and county manager.

Authored By:	Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th)	Rule Applied:	
House Committee:	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	Committee Action:	03-05-2021 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 157 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

Committee Actions

Bills passing committees are reported to the Clerk's Office and are placed on the General Calendar.

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

HB 655 Brookhaven, City of; filling of vacancies in the offices of mayor and councilmembers; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 655 provides for the filling of vacancies in the offices of mayor and councilmember of the city of Brookhaven.

Authored By: Rep. Matthew Wilson (80th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 03-08-2021 Do Pass

HB 682 Pickens County; board of elections and registration; reconstitute and reestablish

Bill Summary: House Bill 682 reconstitutes and reestablishes the Pickens County Board of Elections and Registration. The board will be composed of five members. The governing authority of the county will appoint one non-partisan member, who will serve as the chair. Two members will be appointed by the governing authority from a list of four nominees made by the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates in the preceding regular general election held for the General Assembly received the largest number of votes in the state. Two members will be appointed by the governing authority of the county from a list of four nominees made by the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates received the second largest number of votes in the state. The terms of office for the initial members of the board will begin on July 1, 2021. The bill will not become effective if a bill to abolish the current board is not approved during the 2021 Session and will be automatically repealed on July 1, 2021.

Authored By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 03-08-2021 Do Pass

HB 683 Pickens County board of elections and registration; provide abolition of board on a date certain

Bill Summary: House Bill 683 provides for abolition of the Pickens County Board of Elections and Registration on June 30, 2021.

Authored By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 03-08-2021 Do Pass

HB 684 Troup County; board of elections and registration; provide new five member board

Bill Summary: House Bill 684 terminates the office of the current Troup County Board of Elections and Registration and establishes a new five-member board appointed by majority vote of the Troup County Board of Commissioners.

Authored By: Rep. Randy Nix (69th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 03-08-2021 Do Pass

HB 685 Jasper, City of; reincorporate and provide new charter

Bill Summary: House Bill 685 provides a new charter for the city of Jasper.

Authored By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 03-08-2021 Do Pass

HB 705 Bleckley County; Probate Court; charge technology fee

Bill Summary: HB 705 authorizes the Bleckley County Probate Court to charge a technology fee.

Authored By: Rep. Danny Mathis (144th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 03-08-2021 Do Pass

HB 707 Coolidge, City of; provide new charter

Bill Summary: House Bill 707 provides a new charter for the city of Coolidge.

Authored By: Rep. Sam Watson (172nd)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 03-08-2021 Do Pass

HB 708 City of Hapeville Public Facilities Authority Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 708 creates the Hapeville Public Facilities Authority.

Authored By: Rep. David Dreyer (59th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 03-08-2021 Do Pass

HB 711 Sylvester, City of; ward residence requirements for city councilmembers; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 711 provides residence requirements for city of Sylvester councilmembers. No person will be eligible to serve as mayor or councilmember unless he or she has been a resident of the city for at least 12 months prior to the date of election. Moreover, no person will be eligible to serve as councilmember unless he or she has been a resident of the ward he or she represents for at least 12 months prior to the date of election.

Authored By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 03-08-2021 Do Pass

Committee Meeting Schedule

This meeting schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meeting dates and times are subject to change.

To keep up with the latest schedule, please visit www.house.ga.gov and click on [Meetings Calendar](#).

03/09/2021 8:00 AM	MOTOR VEHICLES	606 CLOB HYBRID	VIDEO	Agenda
03/09/2021 8:00 AM	Governmental Affairs General Government Subcommittee	406 CLOB HYBRID	VIDEO	Agenda
03/09/2021 11:00 AM	SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	506 CLOB HYBRID	VIDEO	Agenda
03/09/2021 2:00 PM	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	606 CLOB HYBRID	VIDEO	Agenda
03/09/2021 2:00 PM	GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS	406 CLOB HYBRID	VIDEO	Agenda
03/09/2021 3:00 PM	CANCELLED - ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS	403 CAP HYBRID	VIDEO	Agenda
03/09/2021 3:00 PM	Insurance Life and Health Subcommittee	506 CLOB HYBRID	VIDEO	Agenda
03/10/2021 1:00 PM	Ways and Means Sales Tax Subcommittee	403 CAP HYBRID	VIDEO	Agenda
03/10/2021 1:15 PM	Ways and Means Public Finance and Policy	403 CAP HYBRID	VIDEO	Agenda
03/10/2021 1:30 PM	Ways and Means Tax Revision Special Subcommittee	403 CAP HYBRID	VIDEO	Agenda
03/10/2021 1:45 PM	Ways and Means Ad Valorem Tax Subcommittee	403 CAP HYBRID	VIDEO	Agenda
03/10/2021 2:00 PM	Ways and Means Income Tax subcommittee	403 CAP HYBRID	VIDEO	