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RELATIONS

2023 Pre-Session Report

The 2023 Georgia legislative session is right around the corner! The General Assembly will convene for the first legislative day on Monday, January 9th, and the budget week will start on January 17th, the following week. This is the first session of the 2023-2024 biennial, and we are expecting to see many important issues come up such as the FY23 amended budget and the FY24 proposed budget, educational priorities, and the continuing of the Mental Health Parity Act (HB 1013) that was passed during the 2022 legislative session.

New Legislative Leadership

This upcoming session marks a new wave in leadership in the House and Senate. This session will include not only a new Speaker of the House and Lieutenant Governor, but rank and file leadership in both chambers as well. Former Speaker David Ralston passed away in November, and this led to major changes in leadership. Additionally, with Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan deciding to not run for reelection, Burt Jones has succeeded him. The Senate Majority Caucus has also undergone major changes in leadership with an entirely new slate of leadership.

House Leadership

Speaker - Jon Burns (Newington)

Speaker Pro-Tempore - Jan Jones (Milton)

Majority Leader - Chuck Efstrotation (Dacula)

Majority Whip - James Burchett (Waycross)

Majority Caucus Chairman - Bruce Williamson (Monroe)

Majority Caucus Vice-Chairman - Houston Gaines (Athens)

Majority Caucus Secretary/Treasurer - Ginny Ehrhart (Marietta)

Majority Caucus Chief Deputy Whip - Rob Leverett (Elberton)

Minority Leader - James Beverly (Macon)

Minority Whip - Sam Park (Lawrenceville)

Minority Caucus Chairman - Billy Mitchell (Stone Mountain)

Minority Caucus Vice-Chairman - Karen Bennett (Stone Mountain)

Minority Caucus Secretary - Park Cannon (Atlanta)

Minority Caucus Treasurer - Shea Roberts (Atlanta)
Minority Caucus Chief Deputy Whip - Sandra Scott (Rex)

Senate Leadership

Lieutenant Governor - Burt Jones
President Pro-Tempore - John F. Kennedy (Macon)
Majority Leader - Steve Gooch (Dahlonega)
Majority Whip - Randy Robertson (Cataula)
Majority Caucus Chair - Jason Anavitarte (Dallas)
Majority Caucus Vice Chair - Matt Brass (Newnan)
Majority Caucus Treasurer - Vacant*
Minority Leader- Gloria Butler (Stone Mountain)
Minority Whip- Harold Jones II (Augusta)
Minority Caucus Chair- Elena Parent (Atlanta)
Minority Caucus Vice Chair- Sonya Halpern (Atlanta)
Minority Caucus Secretary- Nan Orrock (Atlanta)

Governor's Surplus Spending

Georgia ended the 2022 budget year with a surplus of \$6.6B in cash.

- Gov. Kemp announced a rough number of \$3B to go to one time tax givebacks
 - Replacing revenue that hasn't been made on gasoline taxes since March by using approximately \$1.7B of the surplus to fill the lost revenue.
 - Issuing state income tax rebates again similar to the \$1.1B in payments sent out in the last year
 - Spending approximately \$1B to the revive the property tax rebate the was abolished in 2009 to help homeowners save more money
- It's still up in the air for the other roughly \$3B.

Study Committees Reports



Scan this QR code or click on the link to access our [Google Drive](#) of study committee notes and final reports!

Pertinent Study Committees

1. House Study Committee on Regulation, Affordability, and Access to Housing
2. Senate Study Committee on Transparency in High School Athletic Associations
3. House Study Committee on Literacy Instruction
4. Joint Study Committee on the Electrification of Transportation
5. House Rural Development Council
6. Senate Study Committee to Review Education Funding Mechanisms