



**The American  
Institute  
of Architects**



**Session Week 4 Report  
Legislative Days 9-12**



## **Week 4 Legislative Days 9-12**

This week the Georgia General Assembly met Monday through Thursday for Legislative Days 9-12. Many House and Senate committees began meeting for the first time this Legislative session for general introductions and adoption of committee rules while others continued meetings from last week. Progress was made on many important topics such as the 2023 amended budget and key educational issues. Keep reading for the breakdown of the week and a list of pertinent legislation!

## **2023 Amended Budget Updates**

The Georgia House of Representatives passed the 2023 amended budget on Thursday, February 2, of this week with a vote of 170-1. The House approved \$1B in property tax breaks and another \$1B in income tax breaks. The amended budget also includes \$100M to help ease the health insurance steep increases by putting it back into employee health insurance in public school systems. This would provide a solution to help with increase in premiums in the State Health Benefit Plans by stretching out the increases over a period of three years and keeping the employee premiums the same. The house also moved \$1B from the approximately \$6B surplus to the Georgia Department of Transportation to help recovery from the 10 month suspension of the state gas tax. The Senate was able to receive the budget the same day it was passed in the House and assigned it to committee before adjourning. The legislature will resume work on moving the 2023 amended budget through the rest of the legislative process next week.

Click on [this link](#) to see the passed budget legislation.

## **Georgia Literacy Report**

The Senate Joint Education Committee on Literacy met Tuesday, January 31st, for the first time. The committee rules were adopted, and the committee heard presentations on the current literacy programs, state and federal funding, and current data on literacy rates. Superintendent Richard Woods along with his chief of staff from the Department of Education gave a thorough presentation outlining learning loss and literacy efforts in the state of Georgia. Dana Rickman from the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education also gave a presentation overviewing the GPPE agency and highlighting the top ten educational things to look out for in 2023.

The House Education Committee met on Thursday, February 2nd, to hear five presentations on literacy and education in Georgia. The Department of Education started off the meeting with a presentation on literacy. The GPPE delivered the same presentation on the top ten educational issues for Georgia that was given in the Senate Education Committee. The committee also heard from the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia on charter schools in Georgia, and the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute gave a presentation on education spending in Georgia. Lastly, the Metro Atlanta Chamber gave a presentation on the educational workforce in the state.

## **The Week Under the Gold Dome**

### **Bills of Interest**

- HB 191 (Rep. Ron Stephens): Revenue and taxation; pack of cigarettes; increase rate of tax
  - House hopper
- HB 192 (Rep. Ron Stephens): Revenue and taxation; consumable vapor products; increase rate of tax
  - House hopper
- SB 57 (Sen. Billy Hickman): Georgia Sports Betting Integrity Act'; regulation and taxation of sports betting in this state; authorize and provide
  - Senate read and referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
- SB 61 (Sen. Brian Strickland): Sick Leave for Care of Immediate Family Members; sunset provision relating to such sick leave requirements; repeal
  - Senate read and referred to the Committee on Insurance and Labor