



**Session Week 7 Report
Legislative Days 21-23**



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This week the Georgia General Assembly met Tuesday through Thursday for Legislative Days 21-23. The top issues for the week include the continuation of the truck weight debate, advances on sports betting in Georgia, and the introduction of a mental health cleanup bill. Keep reading for the breakdown of the week and a list of pertinent legislation!



Truck Weights

On Wednesday, the House Transportation Committee voted 12-7 to allow heavier weight limits for trucks carrying logging, farming, and mining commodities (HB 189). An additional amendment was included to allow some trucks to insert a third axle, which could allow for heavier dump trucks. Although the current maximum truck weight is 84,000 pounds, trucks included in this legislation could now be as heavy as 90,000 pounds. The amended bill was sent back to the full House for more debate. Despite logging, farming, and trucking groups supporting the increase, the State Department of Transportation has opposed the move, expecting damage to

highways and bridges. After widespread opposition by state and local officials, changes have been made to the bill to include only agriculture and forestry vehicles.

Sports Betting Update

Sports betting efforts continued this week in the Georgia General Assembly with SR 140 and SB 172, both carried by Sen. Cowser. The resolution was heard in the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities. SR 140 takes a different route to advance sports betting in the state of Georgia by creating a constitutional amendment. If passed, this resolution would authorize the Georgia General Assembly to create sports betting legislation and allow for the regulation and allocation of revenue. SB 172 was also heard in the same committee and would authorize sports betting in the State of Georgia. The main concerns expressed about SR 140 and SB 172 is the potential for drug, alcohol, and gambling addictions to be created or worsened in Georgia citizens.

Mental Health Cleanup Bill

In the 2022 Georgia General Assembly Session, HB 1013, the “Mental Health Parity Act” was passed to expand and further Georgia healthcare provisions for mental health care. This session, several cleanup bills are being passed to continue to improve Georgia’s mental health care and further the efforts of the late Speaker Ralston and HB 1013. One of the cleanup bills is HB 520, carried by Rep. Todd Jones. This bill deals with revising provisions related to tenant selection in regards to tenant’s with mental health issues. This is just one of many mental health cleanup bills that are being debated in the Georgia General Assembly health committees and will hopefully further improve Georgia’s mental health care.

The Week Under the Gold Dome

Overarching Legislation

<i>Bill</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>
HB 191 (Rep. Ron Stephens)	Revenue and taxation; pack of cigarettes; increase rate of tax	House read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

HB 192 (Rep. Ron Stephens)	Revenue and taxation; consumable vapor products; increase rate of tax	House read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
HB 380 (Rep. Marcus Wiedower)	Georgia Lottery Game of Sports Betting Act; enact	House read and referred to the Committee on Higher Education
HB 489 (Rep. Mitchell Horner)	Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act; aggregate annual limit; provide	House Hopper
HB 530 (Rep. James Burchett)	Civil practice; protective orders for certain high-ranking officers; provide	House Hopper
HR 210 (Rep. James Beverly)	General Assembly; law for sports betting, pari-mutuel betting, and casino gambling; authorize - CA	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
SB 113 (Sen. Randy Robertson)	Municipal Corporations; the transition of services and facilities from an existing municipality to a newly incorporated municipality; provide	Senate read and referred to the Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations
SB 114 (Sen. Randy Robertson)	City of Buckhead City; incorporate	Senate read and referred to the Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations
SB 172 (Sen. Bill Cowsert)	State Government; regulation and taxation of sports betting in this state; authorize and provide	Senate read and referred to regulated industries and utilities
SB 186 (Sen. Greg Dolezal)	"Georgia Landowners Protection Act"; enact	Senate Hopper
SB 191 (Sen. Shawn Still)	Motor Vehicles and Traffic; authorizing joinder of motor carriers and their insurance	Senate Hopper

	carriers in tort and contract causes of action; provisions; repeal	
SB 192 (Sen. Lee Anderson)	Torts; employers and insurance providers of commercial motor vehicle operators based upon history of driving incidents; limit liability	Senate Hopper
SB 194 (Sen. Shawn Still)	Alcoholic Beverages and Motor Vehicles and Traffic; delivery of alcoholic beverages for personal use; provisions	Senate Hopper
SB 196 (Sen. Ben Watson)	Safety Belts; failure to wear safety restraints for children as admissible evidence in civil actions; provide	Senate Hopper
SB 200 (Sen. Bill Cowsert)	"Civil Practice Act"; high ranking government or corporate officer of whom a deposition is sought to seek a protective order; provide	Senate Hopper

AIA Bills of Interest

<i>Bill</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>
HB 26 (Rep. Mandisha Thomas)	Right to Breath Act - so as to require the Department of Community Affairs to include certain indoor air quality provisions in applicable state minimum standard codes	House read and referred to Committee on Public Health
HB 251 (Rep. Kim Schofield)	Clean Energy Act; enact	House read and referred to Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
SB 157 (Sen. Brian Strickland)	Professions and Businesses; preclearance process in the licensing of individuals with criminal records who make an application to or are investigated by certain licensing boards and commissions; create	Senate read and referred to Committee on Judiciary