



Session Week 10 Report
Legislative Days 32-35



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The Georgia General Assembly has been racing towards Sine Die, working through Legislative Days 32-35 this week. Many bills made a comeback this week such as HB 237, the sports betting bill, and HB 520, the Mental Health Parity Act. Many bills were also passed regarding virtual meetings of certain entities such as city councils. Election policy also continues to remain at the forefront of Georgia Legislation. Keep reading for a breakdown of the week and a list of pertinent legislation!

Comeback Season

Several pertinent legislation issues made a comeback this week in the form of bill amendments. It is sometimes possible for dead legislation to be added into other living bills by amending language as was seen a few times this week. The Georgia Sports Betting Integrity Act as well as other sports betting bills have failed on the legislative floor during the past few weeks, but sports betting language has been added to HB 237, an unrelated bill, in the form of an amendment. HB 237 was a bill designating the Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby as the official Soap Box Derby of the state but has been stripped down to make way for sports betting language. Another bill, HB 520, was partially stripped and amended with cleanup language relating to HB 1013 from last session. This amendment would help clarify and fix problem areas of the Mental Health Parity Act championed by the late Speaker Ralston. Additionally, SB 26, dealing with virtual meetings of certain government entities, had several proposed amendments this week from several different parties. The main amendment that passed added language dealing with the Commissioner of Economic Development. HB 353, the Georgia Lottery for Education Act, deals with administrative procedures of coin operated amusement machines (COAMs). A small amendment was proposed in the Senate Economic Development Committee that would give location owners more freedom to contract with master licenses for the placement of COAMs.

Virtual Meetings

SB 26 is a bill allowing local workforce development boards to hold teleconference meetings in non-emergency settings on the topics of development authorities and community improvement districts. Multiple new amendments were proposed this week that add other types of boards such as workforce authority boards, retirement boards and other non-elected random boards to the bill. The Governor's policy office also proposed an amendment to the bill that was passed by the committee. The official amendments passed by the committee should be posted on the General Assembly official website during the next week.



Elections

Two main elections bills were amended in Senate committees this week. SB 129, by Sen. Williams, would extend time off for employees wanting to vote in advance. The Senate Ethics Committee passed an amendment for SB 129 that includes language from the controversial Omnibus Elections Bill, SB 221, that failed to receive a vote in the Senate. The new amendment would use SB 129 as a vehicle for cleanup language from the Secretary of State's office. SB 222 was also amended by the House Government Affairs Committee this week. House leadership added language to the bill for the State Election Board that would give them their own line item in the state budget. The substitute also provides for the Board to have their own powers to hire their own investigators separate from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and it removes the Secretary of State's office as a non-voting ex-officio member of the board. The amendment was not requested by the SOS office.

The Week Under the Gold Dome

Overarching Legislation

<i>Bill</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>
HB 30 (Rep. John Carson)	State government; definition of antisemitism; provide	House passed; Senate read and referred to the Committee on Judiciary
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 Committee on Ways and Means
HB 380 (Rep. Marcus Wiedower)	Georgia Lottery Game of Sports Betting Act; enact	House Committee on Higher Education Favorably Reported By Substitute
HB 489 (Rep. Mitchell Horner)	Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act; aggregate annual limit; provide	House read and referred to Committee on Ways and Means
HB 530 (Rep. James Burchett)	Civil practice; protective orders for certain high-ranking officers; provide	Senate read and referred to Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities
HB 565 (Rep. Tyler Smith)	Social services; temporary assistance for needy families; increase access to benefits	House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute
HB 581 (Rep. Shaw Blackmon)	Audits and Accounts, Department of; revise deadlines, selection criteria, and required contents for certain annual economic analyses	Senate read and referred to Committee on Finance
HR 210 (Rep. James Beverly)	General Assembly; law for sports betting, pari-mutuel betting, and casino gambling; authorize - CA	House read and referred to Committee on Regulated Industries
SB 57 (Sen. Billy Hickman)	Georgia Sports Betting Integrity Act'; regulation and taxation of sports betting in this state; authorize and provide	Senate Lost

SB 61 (Sen. Brian Strickland)	Sick Leave for Care of Immediate Family Members; sunset provision relating to such sick leave requirements; repeal	House Committee on Industry and Labor favorably reported
SB 113 (Sen. Randy Robertson)	Municipal Corporations; the transition of services and facilities from an existing municipality to a newly incorporated municipality; provide	Senate Tabled
SB 114 (Sen. Randy Robertson)	City of Buckhead City; incorporate	Senate Lost
SB 172 (Sen. Bill Cowsert)	State Government; regulation and taxation of sports betting in this state; authorize and provide	Senate Tabled
SB 186 (Sen. Greg Dolezal)	"Georgia Landowners Protection Act"; enact	Senate Tabled
SB 191 (Sen. Shawn Still)	Motor Vehicles and Traffic; authorizing joinder of motor carriers and their insurance carriers in tort and contract causes of action; provisions; repeal	Senate Tabled
SB 192 (Sen. Lee Anderson)	Torts; employers and insurance providers of commercial motor vehicle operators based upon history of driving incidents; limit liability	Senate read and referred to Committee on Judiciary
SB 194 (Sen. Shawn Still)	Alcoholic Beverages and Motor Vehicles and Traffic; delivery of alcoholic beverages for personal use; provisions	Senate read and referred to Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities
SB 196 (Sen. Ben Watson)	Safety Belts; failure to wear safety restraints for children as admissible evidence in civil actions; provide	Senate Lost
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 Tabled
SB 255 (Sen. Chuck Payne)	Gambling; provisions relative to dogfighting; revise	Senate read and referred to Committee on Public Safety
SB 260 (Sen. Bo	"Georgia Electric Vehicle Future Act"; enact	Senate read second time

Hatchett)		
SB 265 (Sen. Blake Tillery)	Notaries Public; electronic notarization of certain notarial acts using real time audio-video communication technology; provide	Senate read and referred to Committee on Judiciary
SB 271 (Sen. John Albers)	Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority; in-person electronic execution of notarial certificates; authorize	Senate read and referred to Committee on Judiciary
SR 275 (Sen. John Albers)	Senate Study Committee on Expanding Georgia's Workforce; create	Senate Hopper
SR 279 (Sen. Greg Dolezal)	Senate Study Committee on Certificate of Need Reform; create	Senate Hopper

AIA Bills of Interest

House Bill 336

- Passed the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee
- Passed the Georgia House of Representatives 162-2
- Tabled in the Senate Regulated Industries Committee
 - AIA testified against this bill in Committee, with the Chairman moving to not take action on it for the session. This was made possible by both the testimony of David Southerland and the advocacy of our members across the state reaching out to their legislators.
 - You can listen to David's testimony by visiting [this link](#) and skipping to the 54-minute mark.

<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 145 (Rep. Regina Lewis-Ward)	Property owners' associations; certificates of good standing for payment of annual assessments;	House read and referred to Committee on Judiciary

	provide	
HB 188 (Rep. Steven Sainz)	Georgia Dangerous Sexual Predator Prevention Act; enact	House passed; Senate Read Second Time
HB 239 (Rep. Bruce Williamson)	Income tax; purchases and acquisitions of qualified investment property to include mining facilities; expand credits	House Committee Favorably Reported
HB 251 (Rep. Kim Schofield)	Clean Energy Act; enact	House read and referred to Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
HB 257 (Rep. Kim Schofield)	Helath; feminine hygiene products containing restricted substances; prohibit distribution or sale	House read and referred to Committee on Public Health
HB 278 (Rep. John LaHood)	Professions and businesses; athletic trainers; revise and update definitions	House read and referred to Committee on Health
HB 331 (Rep. Victor Anderson)	Revenue and taxation; accountability of tax collectors and tax commissioners; repeal provisions	House Committee Favorably Reported
HB 574 (Rep. Joseph Gullett)	Buildings and housing; local fire ordinances may require fire sprinkles in one and two family dwellings; provide	House read and referred to Committee on Governmental Affairs
HB 575 (Rep. Joseph Gullett)	Professions and businesses; licensee may request review of an occupational regulation; provide	House read and referred to Committee on Regulated Industries
HB 514 (Rep. Dale Washburn)	Housing Regulation Transparency Act; enact	House passed; Senate referred to Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
HB 517 (Rep. Dale Washburn)	Georgia Homeowner Opportunity Act; enact	House read and referred to Committee on Governmental Affairs
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	Senate passed; House referred to Committee on Judiciary - Non-Civil

	boards and commissions; create	
HB 155 (Rep. Charles Martin)	Professions and businesses; issuance of licenses by endorsement for spouses of firefighters, healthcare providers, and law enforcement officers who relocate to Georgia; provide	House Passed; Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities Favorably Reported
HB 176 (Rep. Stan Gunter)	Courts; increase amount of court reporters' monthly contingent expense and travel allowance	House Passed; Senate read and referred to the Judiciary Committee
HB 189 (Rep. Steven Meeks)	Highways, bridges, and ferries; allowable variance for weight limitations upon a vehicle or load; provide for	House passed; Senate read and referred to Committee on Transportation
HB 193 (Rep. Victor Anderson)	Local government; increase dollar values of certain public works construction contracts exempt from bidding requirements	House Passed/Adopted; Senate read second time
HB 200 (Rep. Joseph Gullet)	Elections; municipalities to adopt and use instant runoff voting for their elections; provide for the option	House read and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs
HB 204 (Rep. Bill Yearata)	Georgia Municipal Court Clerks' Council; create	House Passed/Adopted; Senate referred to Committee on Judiciary
HB 223 (Rep. Ron Stephens)	Revenue and taxation; procedures for certain local governments to change certain nonprofit organizations engaged to promote tourism, conventions, and trade shows for such jurisdiction; provide	House Committee on Ways and Means Favorably Reported
HB 251 (Rep. Kim Schofield)	Clean Energy Act; enact	house read and referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications
HB 254 (Rep. David Jenkins)	Civil practices; alternative procedure for designation of official legal organ; provide	House Passed; Senate Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations Favorably Reported
HB 264 (Rep. Vance Smith)	Revenue and taxation; handling of appeals of property tax assessments; revise certain deadlines and procedures	House passed; Senate Committee on Finance Favorably Reported By Substitute

HB 265 (Rep. Doreen Carter)	Rockdale Judicial Circuit; Superior Court judges; change amount of salary supplement	House passed, Senate passed/adopted by substitute
HB 307 (Rep. Alan Powell)	Public Service Commission; exclude provision of electricity to propel motor vehicles through electric vehicle charging equipment	House read and referred to Committee on Technology and Infrastructure Innovation
HB 331 (Rep. Victor Anderson)	Revenue and taxation; accountability of tax collectors and tax commissioners; repeal provisions	House Committee Favorably Reported
HB 347 (Rep. Tim Fleming)	Alternative ad valorem tax; rental motor vehicle; revise definition	House read and referred to Committee on Ways and Means
HB 355 (Rep. Kasey Carpenter)	Property owners' associations; creating or enforcing covenants which infringe on a lot owners' right to use natural gas or solar energy device; prohibit	House Judiciary Committee Favorably Reported
HB 374 (Rep. Brad Thomas)	Local government; municipal deannexation; repeal certain provisions	House passed; Senate referred to Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations
HB 408 (Rep. Bruce Williamson)	Sales and use tax; exemption for competitive projects of regional significance; change sunset provision	House passed; Senate referred to Committee on Finance
HB 409 (Rep. Lauren Daniel)	Local government; authorize local authorities to dispose of real property in the same manner as county governing authorities	House Committee on Governmental Affairs Favorably Reported By Substitute
HB 410 (Rep. Lauren Daniel)	Professions and businesses; certain certification requirements for operators of wastewater treatment plants; provide	House read and referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Environment
HB 415 (Rep. Debra Silcox)	Revenue and taxation; joint county and municipal sales and use tax (LOST); call of elections; revise a provision	House read and referred to Committee on Ways and Means
HB 424 (Rep. Kenneth Vance)	Courts; office of sheriff; revise qualification requirements	House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute
HB 426 (Rep. Shaw Blackmon)	Elections; retention and preservation of ballots and other election documents; revise provisions	House Governmental Affairs Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute
HB 429 (Rep. Tyler Smith)	Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act; prohibit permitting of new municipal solid waste landfills	House read and referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

	located within 1.5 miles of any perennial stream	
HB 438 (Rep. Victor Anderson)	Public utilities; prohibit governmental entities from adopting any policy that prohibits the connection or reconnection of any utility service based upon the type or source of energy or fuel	House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Favorably Reported
HB 467 (Rep. Steve Tarvin)	Courts; compensation received by certain local government officials; modify certain provisions	house read and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs
HB 476 (Rep. James Beverly)	Revenue and taxation; tax credits for qualified low-income buildings; provisions	House read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
HB 500 (Rep. Deborah Silcox)	Crimes and offenses; offense of arson of law enforcement vehicle; provide	House passed; Senate referred to Committee on Judiciary
HB 503 (Rep. Lee Hawkins)	Income tax; certain contributions by taxpayers to certain local firefighter foundations; provide tax credit	House read and referred to Committee on ways and means
HB 514 (Rep. Dale Washburn)	Housing Regulation Transparency Act; enact	House passed; Senate referred to Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
HB 516 (Rep. Derrick McCollum)	Transportation, Department of; increase minimum amount for a public road construction or maintenance contract that prohibits negotiation	House Transportation Committee Favorably Reported
HB 517 (Rep. Dale Washburn)	Georgia Homeowner Opportunity Act; enact	House read and referred to the Government Affairs Committee
HB 534 (Rep. Carl Gilliard)	Tenant Protection Act; enact	House read and referred to the Government Affairs Committee
HB 541 (Rep. Eddie Lumsden)	Motor vehicles; proper procedure for passing postal service vehicle; provide	House passed; Senate Read Second Time
HB 585 (Rep. Todd Jones)	Georgia Development Impact Fee Act; enact	House Committee on Governmental Affairs Favorably Reported
HB 651 (Rep. Devan Seabaugh)	Fireworks; local governments to regulate times when used; authorize	House read and referred to Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
HB 654 (Rep. Katie Dempsey)	Waste management; local governments to impose a surcharge for auto	House read and referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Environment

	shredder residue at facilities operated by private enterprise; authorize	
HB 665 (Rep. Lydia Glaize)	Johnny Tolbert III Heat Stroke Youth Protection Act; enact	House read and referred to Committee on Governmental Affairs
HB 710 (Rep. Mike Cheokas)	Schley County; board of elections and registration; create	House read and referred to Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination
HB 719 (Rep. Yasmin Neal)	Property; landlord and tenant; repeal Code Section 44-7-19	House read and referred to Committee on Judiciary
HB 738 (Rep. Scott Hilton)	Task Force on Workforce and Safety Net Integration; create	House read and referred to Committee on Industry and Labor
HR 98 (Rep. Kasey Carpenter)	Property; authorize exemptions from local ad valorem taxation in addition to homestead exemptions - CA	House read and referred to Committee on Ways and Means
HR 118 (Rep. Bill Yearta)	County tax commissioners; waive certain delinquent ad valorem taxes; authorize - CA	House read and referred to Committee on Ways and Means
HR 487 (Rep. Roger Bruce)	House Study Committee on Minority Business Enterprises, Women Owned Businesses, and Veteran Owned Businesses in State Contracting; create	House read and referred to Committee on Small Business Development
SB 1 (Senator Greg Dolezal)	State Government; automatic repealer on the prohibition on state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID vaccination for government services; remove	Senate passed; House Committee on Public Health Favorably Reported
SB 2 (Sen. Greg Dolezal)	Torts; certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19; provisions; revise	Senate read and referred to Committee on Judiciary
SB 16 (Sen. John Albers)	“Georgia EMS Reform Act”; enact	Senate read and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services
SB 37 (Sen. Randy Robertson)	Sheriffs; qualification requirements for the office of sheriff; revise	Senate passed, House read and referred to Public Safety and Homeland Security
SB 47 (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler)	Offenses Against Public Health And Morals; vaping in restricted areas is a misdemeanor punishable by fine; provide	Senate passed, House Committee on Public Health Favorably Reported

SB 78 (Sen. Randy Robertson)	Off-Road Vehicles; civil forfeiture of any off-road vehicle operated while fleeing police or driving aggressively; authorize	Senate Read Second Time
SB 93 (Sen. Jason Anavitarte)	Information Technology; use of certain social media platforms on state equipment; restrict	Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute; house committee on public safety and homeland security favorably reported by substitute
SB 110 (Sen. Larry Walker)	Back the Blue Act'; enact	Senate Passed; House Committee on Insurance Favorably Reported By Substitute
SB 116 (Sen. Ben Watson)	Disposition of Municipal Property; the maximum term of certain leases or contracts for the use of property owned by a municipality for recreational facilities; provisions	Senate Passed; House Passed/Adopted
SB 121 (Sen. Lee Anderson)	Counties and Municipal Corporations; local governments from denying the drilling, servicing, or repair of new or existing water wells on single-family residential and farm properties; prohibit	Senate Passed; House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment Favorably Reported By Substitute
SB 124 (Sen. Ed Setzler)	County Governing Authorities; authority of county governing authorities to reapportion or redistrict their election districts; restate constitutional limitations	Senate Tabled
SB 127 (Sen. Billy Hickman)	Excise Tax; procedures for certain local governments to change the designated private sector nonprofit organization; provide	Senate passed; House referred to Committee on Ways and Means
SB 136 (Sen. Mike Dugan)	Impact Fees; required revenue source for a development project involving workforce housing; modify	Senate passed; House Committee on Governmental Affairs Favorably Reported By Substitute
SB 145 (Sen. Shawn Still)	"Landscape Equipment and Agricultural Fairness (LEAF) Act"; enact	Senate passed; House Committee on Governmental Affairs Favorably Reported By Substitute

SB 163 (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler)	Alcoholic Beverages; regulation of the manufacture, distribution, and sale of malt beverages; provide	Senate read and referred to Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities
SB 165 (Sen. Russ Goodman)	Dimensions and Weight of Vehicles and Loads; allowable variance for weight limitations upon a vehicle or load; provide	Senate read and referred to Committee on Transportation
SB 167 (Sen. Randy Robertson)	Public Utilities and Public Transportation; electricity to propel motor vehicles through electric vehicle charging equipment; exclude the provision	Senate read and referred to Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities
SB 171 (Sen. Max Burns)	Development Authorities; the length of a director's hold-over period following expiration of term of office; limit	Senate Tabled
SB 173 (Sen. Ben Watson)	Emergency Medical Services; hospital authorities may transfer its ambulance service license to its local governing body; provide	Senate read and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services
SB 188 (Sen. Russ Goodman)	Local Government; restrictions on residential dwellings; prohibit	Senate read and referred to Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities
SB 189 (Sen. Max Burns)	Elections; text portions of ballots shall be counted for vote tabulation and recounts purposes; provide	Senate read and referred to Committee on Ethics
SB 208 (Sen. Greg Dolezal)	Georgia Development Impact Fee Act'; provide for fees for education	Senate Read Second Time
SB 213 (Sen. Max Burns)	Zoning Procedures; local governments from preventing the continuance of lawful nonconforming use of property; prohibit	Senate passed; House Committee on Governmental Affairs Favorably Reported
SB 214 (Sen. Shawn Still)	Alcoholic Beverages; number of retail dealer licenses that a person may hold or have a beneficial interest in	senate read and referred to regulated industries and utilities committee
SB 215 (Sen. Matt Brass)	Public Records; personal information of public employees; protect from public disclosure	Senate passed; House referred to Committee on Governmental Affairs
SB 221 (Sen. Max Burns)	Primaries and Elections; the language that must be used on absentee ballot applications distributed by persons or entities; revise	Senate Read Second Time

SB 222 (Sen. Max Burns)	Primaries and Elections; all costs and expenses relating to election administration are paid for with lawfully appropriate public funds; provide	Senate passed; House Committee on Governmental Affairs Favorably Reported By Substitute
SB 226 (Sen. Marty Harbin)	Primaries and Elections; unique bar codes and alphanumeric accountability numbers on individual absentee ballots; require	Senate read and referred to Ethics
SB 229 (Sen. Brandon Beach)	Elections and Primaries; any person employed or retained by a county election superintendent must be a citizen of the United States; provide	Senate read and referred to Ethics
SB 232 (Sen. John Kennedy)	Courts; provide for probate court fees; funding of the State Children's Trust Fund; requirement of permit for conduct of fireworks display; amend	Senate read and referred to Judiciary
SB 263 (Sen. Sam Watson)	Counties and Municipal Corporations; disconnecting interconnected public water systems; prohibit local governments	Senate read and referred to Committee on Insurance and Labor
SB 293 (Sen. Ben Watson)	County Boards of Health; operational policies and procedures of the Department of Public Health apply to local personnel; provide	Senate read and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services
SR 221 (Sen. Max Burns)	Joint Study Committee on Run-Off Elections; create	Senate Read Second Time