



**Session Week 8 Report
Legislative Days 24-27**



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This week the Georgia General Assembly met Monday through Thursday for Legislative Days 24-27. The top issues for the week include a heated committee debate over an election omnibus bill, the Senate's passing of Alyssa's law, and updates on the Buckhead cityhood attempt. Things are ramping up at the State Capitol as the General Assembly prepares for Crossover day this upcoming Monday, March 6th. Keep reading for the breakdown of the week and a list of pertinent legislation!

Election Omnibus Bill

Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee Max Burns introduced a committee substitute to SB 221 that resulted in an omnibus election bill. While much of the bill is cleanup language submitted by the Office of Secretary of State, there were many new additions to the bill including: county election offices not being able to directly receive third party donations, chain of custody language, increasing punishments for election officers, and increasing the pixel sizes of scanned ballots, and other provisions. Over twenty amendments were added to the bill during committee, with the last being the most controversial; an amendment by Vice-Chairman Rick Williams that would strip ballot dropboxes all together from state code. This bill now sits in the Senate Rules Committee.

Buckhead Cityhood Update

The buckhead cityhood senate bill, SB 114, was heard on the senate floor on Thursday of this week. Much debate was stirred when Gov. Brian Kemp's office released a memo on Tuesday night outlining several key issues with the proposed Buckhead split from Atlanta. Executive council, David Dove, posed 11 questions to legislators that highlighted potential safety concerns, education concerns, and overall confusion that could result from the passing of SB 113 and SB 114. The bills currently do not outline how they will handle safety measures since a new city will fall out of the jurisdiction of the Atlanta Police Department. There is also no proposed plan for

Buckhead students that currently attend City of Atlanta public schools. In addition, the new City of Buckhead would contain land such as parks that would still belong to the City of Atlanta, creating ‘Atlanta islands’ within the new city. Ultimately, the Governor’s opposition to these two senate bills significantly lowered the chance of Buckhead gaining cityhood. SB 114 did not pass the Senate floor.



Alyssa’s Law

SB 32, known as Alyssa’s law, passed the Senate floor this week with a vote of 42-10. Alyssa’s law was written in response to the Florida Parkland school shooting that took place in 2018 and claimed the lives of 17 students. Alyssa was a 14 year old victim of the shooting, and her mom, Lori, has dedicated herself to school safety advocacy in her memory. Versions of SB 32 have been passed in several other states, and it is now being considered for Georgia law. SB 32 would mandate mobile panic alarm systems for every K-12 school in Georgia. This would allow teachers and education staff to call for emergency services quicker during emergencies with a panic button that they could carry on their person. Discrete and quick panic buttons are essential to reducing threats during active shooter emergencies as outlined in SB 32. The bill will advance to a House committee next week.

Sports Betting Integrity Act

SB 57, the ‘Georgia Sports Betting Integrity Act,’ died on the Senate floor on Thursday of this week. After much debate among the Senators, this bill failed to get a majority of the votes and will not advance to the House. Sports betting continues to be a controversial topic every year in the General Assembly, so there’s a good chance its supporters will continue to work to get it passed.

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 Committee on Ways and Means favorably reported by substitute
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 read and referred to Committee on Ways and Means
HB 530 (Rep. James Burchett)	Civil practice; protective orders for certain high-ranking officers; provide	House read and referred to Committee on Judiciary
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	House read and referred to Committee on Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight
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 read second time
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 second time
SB 114 (Sen. Randy Robertson)	City of Buckhead City; incorporate	Senate read second time
SB 172 (Sen. Bill Cowsert)	State Government; regulation and taxation of sports betting in this state; authorize and provide	Senate committee on regulated industries and utilities favorably reported by substitute
SB 186 (Sen. Greg Dolezal)	"Georgia Landowners Protection Act"; enact	Senate Committee favorably reported
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 read second time
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 read second time
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 Committee favorably reported by substitute
SB 255 (Sen. Chuck Payne)	Gambling; provisions relative to dogfighting; revise	Senate read and referred to Committee on Public Safety
SB 260 (Sen. Bo Hatchett)	"Georgia Electric Vehicle Future Act"; enact	Senate Committee favorably reported
SB 265 (Sen. Blake	Notaries Public; electronic notarization of	Senate read and referred to

Tillery)	certain notarial acts using real time audio-video communication technology; provide	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

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
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 read and referred to Committee on Governmental Affairs
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 boards and commissions; create	Senate Read Second Time

