

Effective Date Guidance for 2020 Legislative Session

The General Assembly concluded the 2019-2020 Legislative Session on Friday, June 26, 2020. The Governor has until August 5, 2020 to sign or veto legislation or to allow legislation to become law without his signature. Typically, the legislative session ends in late March or early April and the Governor finalizes his bill review by mid-May. As such, any bill that does not have an effective date automatically becomes effective on July 1st. However, due to the lateness of this legislative session that will not be the case for most legislation.

Effective dates of legislation are governed by O.C.G.A. § 1-3-4. Bills may have a specific effective date listed, have no effective date listed, or become effective upon the Governor's signature.

1. If a bill does not have an effective date listed, the default effective date is July 1, 2020, *if* the Governor signs the bill before July 1, 2020.
2. However, any bill that has no effective date listed that is signed by the Governor on or after July 1, 2020 will be effective on January 1, 2021.
3. Bills that are effective upon the Governor's signature will become effective on the date the bill is signed.
4. Bills that have a date certain listed will be effective as of that date, regardless as to when the Governor signs the bill.

To figure out whether a bill of interest has been signed, the [Governor's website](#) provides a listing of all bills that have been signed. Additionally, the [General Assembly's website](#) provides bill summaries, Act numbers, and the dates bills are signed. The [ACCG Legislative Tracking Database](#) provides staff bill summaries on legislation that impacts county government and is updated when the General Assembly updates its site on the Governor's signature. The ACCG Policy Team prepared a [Legislative Session Recap](#) on major bills tracked by ACCG. After the Governor's window to sign or veto expires on August 5, 2020, the ACCG Policy Team will prepare a final legislative report that includes effective dates.