



Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- June 2013

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List of New Laws Effective July 6/14/20136/14/20131st Available for Counties

There were 46 bills passed during the 2013 legislative session that impact county government which will go into effect on July 1, 2013. Please click [here](#) to view the list of bills.

ACCG Provides Counties with Updated List of Questions Regarding New Title Ad Valorem Tax

Several amendments were made to the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) law during the 2013 legislative session. Since the TAVT law began on March 1, 2013, there have been many questions regarding the law and its implications. ACCG is providing counties with a list of the most commonly asked questions and accompanying answers about TAVT. Click [here](#) to view the most up-to-date list of questions.

If you have additional questions about the TAVT, please contact ACCG Legislative Director Clint Mueller at cmueller@accg.org or at (404) 522-5022.

Checklist for New Immigration Legislation Effective July 1st Now Available

A new immigration law, SB 160, goes into effect on July 1, 2013. ACCG is updating the Immigration Guide for Counties in anticipation of this new law. The immigration guide should be available by June 17 on the ACCG website. A checklist providing an overview of the current and new law is now available.

Click [here](#) to view the checklist.

Policy Committees Set to Meet in July

The ACCG Policy Committee meetings will begin in July. Through the policy committee process, Georgia counties identify issues, debate options, and form consensus on positions that ACCG should pursue at the local, state, and federal levels. For ACCG to effectively represent the interest of all 159 counties, we need active participation from all county

officials throughout the state. Your involvement and leadership is very important as it helps shape ACCG's policies at the state and federal levels.

Attendees are welcome to participate in more than one meeting. Please mark your calendar and follow the link to register for the meetings of your choice.

- Monday, July 15, 2013 [Pulaski County/Revenue and Finance](#)
- Tuesday, July 16, 2013 [Fulton County/Economic Development and Transportation](#)
- Wednesday, July 17, 2013 [Cobb County/Federal](#)
- Monday, July 22, 2013 [Henry County/General County Government](#)
- Tuesday, July 23, 2013 [Upson County/Health and Human Services](#)
- Wednesday, July 24, 2013 [Houston County/Natural Resources and the Environment](#)
- Monday, July 29, 2013 [Houston County/Public Safety and the Courts](#)

Though registration is not required, ACCG asks that attendees register for the meetings of their choice so that our staff can properly prepare meeting materials and logistics. Please contact ACCG Policy Coordinator Ines Kovacevic if you have any questions about registering for a meeting. She can be reached at ikovacevic@accg.org or (404) 522-5022.

Georgia's Criminal Justice Reform Act Has Positive Impact on County Inmate Populations

The Criminal Justice Reform Act, HB 1176, was passed in 2012 and has since had a positive impact on county jail inmate populations.

This particular legislation produced a comprehensive overhaul of the sentencing structure for criminal offenses in Georgia. Initially, the legislation's provisions caused concern about the impact the Criminal Justice Reform Act would have on overall public safety and local jail populations. Initial concerns that the Act would have a negative impact on public safety and would increase local jail populations, have proven to be unfounded. The Act has contributed to a reduction in the backlog of state prisoners housed in county jails and the number of inmates sentenced to county jails has not increased.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs compiles a monthly Jail Report based on data received from all 146 county jails. The report details the changes in the county inmate populations. Click [here](#) to view the monthly reports.

If you have any questions regarding criminal justice reform and its impact on counties, please contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Debra Nesbit at dnesbit@accg.org or (404) 522-5022.

Budget News: No 2014 COLA Adjustment for County Elected Officials

The General Assembly did not approve any cost of living adjustments (COLA) for 2014. Consequently, sheriffs, superior court clerks, tax commissioners, probate judges, magistrate

judges, county commissioners and coroners will not be entitled to any COLA increase for 2014.

ACCG will prepare a new salary guide for 2014 over the upcoming months to assist in the preparation of county official salaries.

Contact ACCG Assistant General Counsel Kelly Pridgen at kpridgen@accg.org or (404) 522-5022 for more information regarding this topic.