



Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- May 2014

- **2014 Final Legislative Update Available to Counties**
- **Reminder: Boat Dealer Inventory Exemption Now Expired**
- **Save the Date for Second Round of Summer Policy Committee Meetings**
- **Budget News: 2015 COLA Calculated for County Elected Officials**
- **House Bill 60- The Safe Carry Protection Act**
- **Updating Georgia's Drought Management Rule**
- **ACCG Sub-Committee Meetings**
- **House and Senate Study Committees Announced**

2014 Final Legislative Update Available to Counties

The final legislative update of the 2014 session is available for counties. Each year, ACCG compiles this document which summarizes legislation of significance to counties passed by the General Assembly and signed or vetoed by the governor. The summary includes key points of each bill and resolution as well as effective dates.

Click [here](#) to view the 2014 Final Legislative Update.

Reminder: Boat Dealer Inventory Exemption Now Expired

ACCG would like to remind counties that the exemption regarding boat dealer inventory subject to personal property tax, O.C.G.A. 48-5-504.40 "Watercraft held in inventory for resale exemption from taxation for limited period of time," has expired. The inventory is taxable for 2014. County officials are encouraged to contact their chief appraiser to ensure this exemption has been removed. Please contact ACCG Legislative Director Clint Mueller with any questions or concerns regarding this information. He can be reached at (404) 522-5022 or cmueller@accg.org.

Save the Date for Second Round of Summer Policy Committee Meetings

ACCG will host its second round of 2014 Summer Policy Committee Meetings beginning in late July running through the beginning of August. Please monitor the ACCG website for meeting locations and additional updates such as registration availability.

July 29- Revenue and Finance

July 30- Health and Human Services

July 31- Economic Development and Transportation

August 4- General County Government

August 6- Public Safety and the Courts

August 7- Natural Resources and the Environment

August 13- Federal

This year, ACCG has introduced a new component to the policy meetings which allows attendees to participate remotely. Meeting attendees now have the ability to participate via webinar. In addition, the webinar component produces video footage of each meeting. Thus, those who were not able to attend the meetings may now view them in their entirety. The videos can be accessed [here](#).

Please contact ACCG Policy Coordinator Ines Owens should you have any questions regarding policy committee meetings. She can be reached at iowens@accg.org or (404) 522-5022.

Budget News: 2015 COLA Calculated for County Elected Officials

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget has calculated the cost of living adjustment (COLA) for county official salaries effective Jan. 1, 2015. Sheriffs, superior court clerks, tax commissioners, magistrates, commissioners, and coroners will be entitled to a one percent cost of living increase. Until ACCG is able to prepare an updated county official salary guide, budget officers may use the [2014 guide](#) with the [updated population figures](#) released by the Department of Community Affairs to calculate 2015 salaries.

House Bill 60 – The Safe Carry Protection Act

House Bill 60, this year's omnibus gun bill, was signed into law by Governor Deal and takes effect on July 1. ACCG has received several questions from county attorneys on various legal provisions in the legislation. We are consolidating all of these requests and will soon be submitting a single list of questions to Attorney General Sam Olens for clarity. If your county has any questions, please forward them to ACCG staff Todd Edwards at Tedwards@accg.org.

For a summary of HB 60, please click [here](#).

To view information on HB 60 from the Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia, click [here](#).

Updating Georgia's Drought Management Rule

As required by law, Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is in the preliminary stages of revising the state's Drought Management Rule as well as statewide drought mitigation strategies. While no formal rules have yet been proposed, a stakeholder meeting has taken place and EPD is soliciting comment on various measures being considered. Below you will find a link to the PowerPoint provided by EPD for its May 13 stakeholder meeting. If you have recommendations, please forward them to ACCG staff Todd Edwards at Tedwards@accg.org.

[EPD PowerPoint on the Drought Management Rule Stakeholder Meeting](#)

ACCG Sub-Committee Meetings

ACCG recently appointed sub-committees during the first round of summer Policy Committee Meetings. The sub-committees will meet throughout the summer to discuss various issues of significance to counties. Below is the list of topics in which the sub-committees will meet to discuss this summer:

Economic Development and Transportation:

- a. Transportation Study Committee (HR 1573)
- b. Development Authority Study Committee (SR 875)

Revenue and Finance:

- a. Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA)
- b. Wireless Industry on Valuation of Personal Property
- c. IRP Tax Distributions with Motor Trucking Industry and the Department Of Revenue

General County Government: Pawn Shop Regulations

ACCG/GMA Joint Committee on LOST and Service Delivery Regulation

For more information, please feel free to contact a member of the ACCG policy staff at (404) 522-5022.

House and Senate Study Committees Announced

The Georgia House and Senate appointed study committees on a number of issues this past legislative session. ACCG is providing counties with a list of the various study committees. Click [here](#) to view the list of study committees appointed by the General Assembly. Please note that the highlighted committees are of interest to counties.

For more information or if you have any questions, contact an ACCG policy staff member at (404) 522-5022.