



Legislative Update

Volume # 5, Issue 12- May 1, 2014

2014 Session of the General Assembly

Each year, ACCG compiles a final Legislative Update to summarize legislation of importance to counties passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed or vetoed by the Governor. This Legislative Update is designed to serve as a final guide to legislation from the 2014 session of the Georgia General Assembly and includes a brief summary as well as effective dates for each bill and resolution. Please note that a complete overview is provided for certain legislation with a linked **Appendix**. For the full text of any of the bills in the legislative update, click [here](#).

ACCG staff has reviewed the final appropriations bills and has compiled a list of items of interest to counties by state agency. Items listed in black are increases to agency programs, while items listed in red are reductions to agency programs. [For a complete overview see Appendix A.](#)

The ACCG policy team stands ready to assist you in any way. Watch for the ACCG Capitol Connection electronic newsletter that will serve as your way to stay informed about the work of the policy staff and other legislative issues throughout the rest of the year.

Bills Passed

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORTATION

[Staff: Shaun Adams]

HB 774 Increases Threshold For Road Construction Projects

(Rep. Sam Watson, 172nd)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation increases the threshold before which road construction contracts must be let out by bid from \$20,000 to \$200,000. This legislation requires at least two estimates for road construction projects between \$20,000 and \$200,000. The bill does not pose a requirement for the formality or method in which the estimates are delivered, neither does it pose a requirement for the qualification of the contractor providing the estimate.

HB 877 Clarify Definition and Regulation of Personal Transportation Vehicles

(Rep. Jay Roberts, 155th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation clarifies the definition of a personal transportation vehicle (PTV) by merging motorized carts, golf cars, and golf carts into one definition. It also provides minimum requirements for who can operate a PTV, along with minimum safety requirements to be installed on the PTV for operation in the evening.

This legislation also authorizes local governments to adopt an ordinance allowing for the operation of PTVs on certain roadways and designated pathways subject to certain requirements established by the local government. It gives local governments the option to

adopt a transportation plan to address minimum requirements of operating a PTV on the roadways, as well as for the construction and use of designated pathways.

GENERAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

[Staff: Todd Edwards]

HB 60 Omnibus Gun Bill of 2014

(Rep. Doug Holt, 112th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This was the omnibus gun bill of the 2014 session. ACCG opposed three of its numerous provisions: weapons being allowed in local government buildings unless security and screening are in place; law enforcement not being able to detain persons carrying weapons to determine whether they are legally licensed to do so; and individuals being empowered to sue a county, an elected official or a county employee for any perceived violation of state firearms regulations. [For a more detailed summary see Appendix B.](#)

HB 176 Cell Towers/Equipment - Conditions on Local Government Approval Process

(Rep. Don Parsons, 44th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This substitute bill is significantly scaled back from last year's cell tower bill, resulting from a compromise between ACCG, GMA and wireless providers. Addressed among its provisions are a shot clock on new tower permit application and conditions on the forced removal of an existing tower, wireless equipment on public property and local government application fees. It does not affect a county's current ability to deny an application for a new tower, manage wireless infrastructure on its right of way, or contain an "automatically approved" provision if an application shot clock expires. [For a more detailed summary see Appendix C.](#)

HB 215 Filings in the Clerk of Superior Court Office/Office Hours

(Rep. Tommy Benton, 31st)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation allows, but does not require, superior court clerks to require payment of filing fees before accepting an instrument or document for recording. It also allows the clerks to require that an instrument or document meet all filing requirements before accepting it for recording.

Current law requires the superior court clerk's office to be open from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. This legislation provides some flexibility for a lunch hour closure if the office opens at 8:00 a.m., has a lunch break from 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m., and closes at 5:00 p.m.

HB 310 Align State and Local Election Calendar with Federal Calendar

(Rep. Joe Wilkinson, 52nd)

Effective January 21, 2014 - This bill aligns the state and local elections calendar with the court ordered federal calendar. This changed the qualifying period to March 3-7, 2014, the Primary on May 20, 2014, and the general election on November 4, 2014.

This bill also reduces the time period required to call a special election to be held in conjunction with a statewide primary or general election from 90 days to 60 days for 2014.

HB 490 Require County Library Employees to Work at Least 30 Hours per Week to be Eligible for Health Insurance

(Rep. Timothy Barr, 103rd)

Effective July 1, 2014 - Under current law, the Board of Community Health is authorized to contract with county libraries to include certain library staff under health insurance plans created for public school teachers. The county deducts required amounts from the salary of these employees and remits it to the Board of Community Health. This legislation specifies that "librarians" means certified personnel who work at least thirty hours per week. "Other personnel" specifies that it applies to non-certified employees who work at least thirty hours per week. The fiscal note issued with the substitute version of this bill estimates at least a \$1.6 million dollar savings to the counties in benefit costs for state paid positions funded by counties.

HB 773 Guns - Discharging Near Roadway in Limited Circumstances

(Rep. Robert Dickey, 140th)

Effective April 15, 2014 - This legislation allows the discharge of a firearm within 50 yards of a public road (provided the discharge is shielded from the view of a traveler) if the discharge occurs at: an indoor or outdoor shooting range; a facility used for firearm or hunting safety courses sponsored by a unit of government, nonprofit corporation, commercial enterprise; or the business location of any person, firm, retail dealer, wholesale dealer, pawnbroker, or corporation licensed as a firearm dealer.

HB 845 Mugshots - Limit Posting on Web Sites(Rep. Brian Strickland, 111th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This bill prohibits law enforcement agencies from posting booking photographs (other than of those on the sex offender registry) on a web site. Furthermore, law enforcement is prohibited from providing these photographs to persons who place them in publications or post on web sites and who charge a fee for removing or deleting these photographs.

HB 1042 Auctioneers to Sell Property(Rep. Katie Dempsey, 13th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - ACCG opposed this legislation as it was introduced because it required counties to pay a licensed auctioneer to conduct any sale of county property through a bid or auction process, including eBay, govdeals.com or any other online service. This bill was amended so that it no longer impacts counties.

HR 1585 American Flag - Counties Urged to Display(Rep. Josh Clark, 98th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This resolution urges county and city officials to display the American flag at courthouses and other government buildings.

SB 117 Call Before You Dig Revisions(Sen. Rick Jeffares, 17th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation changes are made to Georgia's Utility Facility Protection Act (GUFPA, or "Call Before You Dig Law"). It changes procedures for addressing un-locatable utilities. It reinforces that sewer laterals are not owned by local governments. Also, it clarifies that routine road maintenance is not "excavating" for purposes of Call Before You Dig Law. Finally it changes the makeup of the GUFPA advisory committee. Despite earlier concerns, this bill does not expand penalties for local governments found in violation of the law, nor does it expand the Public Service Commission's regulatory reach over local governments or water authorities.

SB 290 Dangerous Dog Law Revisions(Sen. Dean Burke, 11th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation makes several changes to the Responsible Dog Ownership Law. First, it allows county commissioners to appoint more than one individual as dog control officer. Second, in addition to

animal control boards or boards of health conducting hearings to determine if a dog is dangerous or vicious, these hearings may also be held before the probate court. Third, it reduces the amount of time to request a hearing, as well as the amount of time that a vicious or dangerous dog must be held if no owner can be found.

SB 297 Clarifies Provisions Related to Local Campaign Disclosure Filing(Sen. Butch Miller, 49th)

Effective January 31, 2014 - This legislation requires candidates for county offices file a declaration of intent to accept campaign contributions with the county election superintendent instead of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission. The election superintendent is required to transmit the documents electronically by eFiling or eFaxing a copy of the report to the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission no later than 10 days after the close of the reporting period. This legislation also changes the exemption for filing campaign finance disclosure reports from those who intend to accept less than \$2,500 each calendar year to those who intent to accept than \$2,500 each election cycle.

SB 305 Fire Safety Standards - Allow Chance to Correct Deficiencies(Sen. Lindsey Tippins, 37th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation requires the local fire marshal, building official or code enforcement officer to provide written notification and an opportunity to correct a violation of the state minimum fire safety standards before denying a permit, refusing to issue a certificate of occupancy or issuing a stop work order.

SB 318 On-Premise Alcohol Sales during St. Patrick's Day Weekend(Sen. Lester Jackson, 2nd)

Effective March 13, 2014 - This legislation allows counties where on premise consumption of alcoholic beverages is lawful to pass an ordinance or resolution authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages on premises from 12:30 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. on any Sunday which occurs during the St. Patrick's Day holiday period (meaning March 16 through 18).

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

[Staff: Debra Nesbit]

HB 778 Exemption of Certain Nonprofit Charitable Entities from Food Service Establishment Regulations

(Rep. John Pezold, 133rd)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation exempts certain nonprofit organizations from the board of health's food service establishment requirements. The exemption would apply to qualified nonprofit organizations that operate food banks; that provide on-site feeding programs for free distribution of food to combat poverty and hunger; that provide food to houses or residential structures where seriously ill or injured children and their families are provided temporary accommodations near the hospital where the child receives treatment, so long as food is prepared, served, transported or stored by volunteer personnel.

HB 943 the Cancer Treatment Fairness Act/ HB 707 Prohibition of Local Governments Advocating for Expansion of Medicaid

(Rep. Lee Hawkins, 27th)

Effective April 15, 2014 Section I and III, Effective January 1, 2015 Section II- Part I of this legislation consists of language from HB 707 that prohibits county officials or employees from expending money or using employees or assets to advocate or influence the citizens of this state in support of the voluntary expansion of Medicaid beyond the eligibility criteria in effect under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Similarly, counties would be prohibited from starting their own health care exchange or participating in a health care exchange provided by a nonprofit organization. There are provisions to protect local governments from acting as a part of their official duty, when on personal time, and when providing bona fide educational instruction about the ACA. Nothing in the bill precludes the state from participating in any Medicaid program. Lastly, it prohibits the state, agencies and political subdivisions from establishing, operating, or implementing a navigator program or it's equivalent.

The language prohibiting the Commissioner of Insurance from implementing and enforcing the ACA was deleted from the final version of the bill.

The University System of Georgia's grant funded navigator program will continue operation until such time that the grants run out. The bill does not allow for the grants to be renewed.

HB 965 Georgia 9-1-1 Medical Amnesty Law and Protocol for EMS and Paramedics to Prescribe Opioid Antagonists

(Rep. Sharon Cooper, 43rd)

Effective April 24, 2014- This legislation provides immunity for those seeking or providing medical assistance to someone who may have overdosed on drugs or alcohol. It allows EMS and paramedics to administer opioid antagonists to individuals who have an opioid related overdose. Additionally, the Department of Public Health is authorized, subject to appropriations from the General Assembly, to provide grants to first responders to assist in maintaining an adequate supply of opioid antagonists

HB 966 Establishment of the Alzheimer's Disease Registry with the Department of Public Health

(Rep. Sharon Cooper, 43rd)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation establishes an Alzheimer's Disease Registry within the Department of Public Health to assist in the development of public policy and planning relative to Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. The Department of Public Health will promulgate rules and regulations regarding data collection, as well as who is required to report data.

HB 990 Legislative Approval for the Expansion of Medicaid

(Rep. Jan Jones, 47th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation requires the General Assembly to approve an expansion of Medicaid eligibility through an increase in the income threshold.

SB 65 Pilot Program to Authorize Licensed Professional Counselors to Sign Mental Health Commitment Orders

(Sen. Renee Unterman, 45th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation will allow a licensed professional counselor to sign 1013 orders to hold mental health patients they deem to be a danger to themselves or others until March 15, 2015. Currently, only doctors are allowed to sign these orders. This pilot project will document the cost savings of having additional professionals approved to sign the orders, thereby lowering transportation costs of the sheriff's departments.

SB 349 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Revision of Local Community Services Boards
(Sen. Charlie Bethel, 54th)

Effective April 16, 2014- This legislation changes the law governing the Department of Behavioral Health and

Developmental Disabilities and the makeup of the local community service boards. This legislation gives county officials greater representation on local community service boards.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

[Staff: Todd Edwards]

HB 549 Water Pollution Spills - Counties to Assist in Public Notice

(Rep. Jon Burns, 159th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation requires county emergency management agencies and health departments (once they are notified by the Environmental Protection Division) to place a public notice when there is a spill of pollutants that is reasonably expected to be a hazard to the public health and safety, to private and public drinking water supplies, or to animals, birds or aquatic life.

HB 741 Septage Land Application Sites - Consistent with Local Zoning

(Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th)

Effective April 23, 2014- This legislation requires those applying for septage land application permits to provide the EPD with a letter verifying that the proposed site complies with a jurisdiction's local zoning and land use ordinances. If a public hearing is held in the application process, it must occur in the same jurisdiction where the proposed site is to be located.

HB 908 Reauthorize Solid Waste Trust Fund

(Rep. Lynne Riley, 50th)

Effective June 30, 2014- This legislation extends the sunset for the scrap tire fee from June 30, 2014, until June 30, 2019. This fee generates about \$6 million annually and is supposed to fund the Solid Waste Trust Fund (for scrap tire clean up, landfill clean ups, litter reduction and recycling efforts at the local level). Over 60 percent of all funds have been redirected to balance the state's general fund since 2004 instead of being used for their intended purposes.

HR 1055/SR 747 Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act
(Rep. Alex Atwood, 179th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation encourages the United States Congress to repeal or amend the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 to make flood insurance more affordable.

SB 213 Flint River Drought Protection Act Revision
(Sen. Ross Tolleson, 20th)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation makes several revisions to the Flint River Drought Protection Act. Among those, it calls for the Department of Agriculture and the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission to work with EPD to look at enhancing programs and incentives to support agricultural water efficiency measures, support pilot projects on innovative irrigation technologies, identify ways for measuring agricultural uses of water, and encourage the retirement of unused surface and ground water farm permits. The EPD Director may modify all farm water permits to reach scheduled efficiencies by 2020 in "affected areas" (all areas in which groundwater flow affects the Flint, or where drainage into Spring Creek, Ichawaynochaway Creek, Kinchafoonee Creek and Muckalee Creek occurs). If the state is augmenting stream flows to help protect aquatic life habitat, the EPD Director can notify downstream surface water permit holders not to use the increased flows in said affected areas. Several other provisions are included.

SB 299 Stream Buffers - Reduce 150-ft Buffer Requirement Upstream from Reservoirs/Water Intakes

(Sen. Steve Gooch, 51st)

Effective July 1, 2014 - Current Department of Natural Resources rules require 150 foot stream buffers on waters seven miles upstream of drinking water reservoirs and intakes, allowing some variances if other water protection measures are taken. This bill allows of these buffers to be decreased so long as the local government submits a watershed protection plan to EPD (and it is approved) that still maintains water quality. The state's 25 foot (all streams) and 50 foot buffers (trout streams) are not impacted by this legislation.

PUBLIC SAFETY & the COURTS

[Staff: Debra Nesbit]

HB 449 Non Disclosure Of Victim Calls To 9-1-1

(Rep. Micah Gravley, 67th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation provides an exception to the open records law for 9-1-1 call recordings in which the caller is in extreme distress or dies.

HB 776 Statewide Master Jury List - Cleanup Legislation

(Rep. Alex Atwood, 179th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation is a clean up bill from the passage of the Statewide Jury Act passed in 2010. The bill removes county board of jury commissioners as the entity responsible for jury lists.

HB 872 Evidence in Investigations of Law Enforcement Officers - Privileged Communication Between Officers and Peer Counselors

(Rep. Terry Rogers, 10th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation makes communication between a law enforcement officer (or their immediate family) and a peer counselor privileged during investigations of a law enforcement officer.

HB 898 Enact Interstate Compact for Juveniles

(Rep. BJ Pak, 108th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation adopts the Interstate Compact for Juveniles. This compact ensures that court orders relating to juveniles in the State of Georgia are honored in other states that are members of the compact.

HB 1078 Qualification of Jurors and Grand Juries

(Rep. Trey Kelley, 16th)

Effective April 29, 2014- This legislation amends the Statewide Jury Act passed in 2010 to give oversight of the selection of grand jurors by the clerk from county master jury list to the presiding judge in consultation with the district attorney. This bill provides that prior to empaneling, swearing and charging the grand jury, the judge and the district attorney may examine prospective jurors as to their qualifications to serve. This eliminates the potential appointment of convicted felons to serve on grand juries.

SB 320 Creation of Veterans Court Divisions

(Sen. Ed Harbison, 15th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation allows for the creation of veterans court divisions dedicated to address the specialized treatment needs of veterans and to

facilitate a veteran's re-entry into society. The passage of this legislation will enable local jurisdictions to access federal grant funds for the operation of the veterans courts.

SB 341 Probate Court Clerk Authority to Act as Judge on Uncontested Matters

(Sen. Jesse Stone, 23rd)

Effective April 21, 2014- This legislation allows the chief clerk of the probate court or other clerk, if the probate judge has not appointed a chief clerk, to serve as probate judge in uncontested cases so long as the chief clerk has served as probate court clerk for at least five years or has been an attorney for three years. This bill also includes a provision that a county is not required to pay a local supplement to a probate judge beyond the term of office for which the supplement was approved.

SB 364 Juvenile Code Rewrite - Correct Errors or Omissions

(Sen. Jesse Stone, 23rd)

Effective April 28, 2014 Section I and II; Effective July 1, 2014 Section III; Effective January 1, 2015 Section IV- This legislation corrects errors and omissions to the juvenile justice code revision that passed last year. [For a more detailed summary see Appendix D.](#)

(Please note that Sections 2-2 and 2-3 of Section II apply to Sentences imposed on or after July 1, 2013)

SB 365 Offender Re-Entry Reforms and Recommendations of the Criminal Justice Reform Council

(Sen. Jesse Stone, 23rd)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation provides for additional revisions to the Juvenile Code Rewrite passed last session and requires implementation of a number of education and rehabilitation programs within the Department of Corrections for successful offender re-entry. [For a more detailed summary see Appendix E.](#)

SB 381 Georgia First Informer Broadcasters Act

(Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation allows broadcasters to obtain "first informer broadcaster" certification from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. It would allow these broadcasters to have access to their equipment or structures to make repairs to allow the broadcaster to continue broadcasting during an emergency. It also allows them to have access to the distribution of fuel, food, water, supplies and other

materials to maintain or produce a broadcast signal. Finally, it would make their vehicles, fuel, food, water and other materials not subject to being seized during an emergency.

SB 383 Prohibition of County Coroner/Medical Examiner from Using Items of Deceased for Personal Use

(Sen. Hardie Davis, 22nd)

Effective April 24, 2014- This legislation specifies that coroners cannot keep or use property of the deceased other than as necessary for the investigation.

REVENUE & FINANCE **[Staff: Clint Mueller]**

HB 719 Continuation of Joint County and Municipal Sales Tax (LOST)

(Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th)

Effective April 29, 2014- This bill provides for the continuation of Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) for counties and cities that relied on judicial arbitration to settle their dispute over LOST distributions. This past fall, the Georgia Supreme Court ruled judicial arbitration unconstitutional.

HB 755 Property Tax Appeals, Refunds and Recalculation of FLPA Grants Upon Final Valuation

(Rep. Jay Powell, 171th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This bill makes several changes to the ad valorem tax laws. These changes:

- Require forestland protection grants for 2008 to be based upon the final value once an appeal is settled;
- Before an appeal can be filed in superior court, authorize the payment of the temporary tax bill as an alternative to payment of the amount of taxes that were paid in the year a final tax bill was determined;
- Reinstate appeal thresholds that cannot be exceeded in order to get digest approval;
- Give the Commissioner the authority to reject a tax digest if evidence exists that the county has substantially failed to comply with the ad valorem tax laws or the Department's rules and regulations;
- Authorize owners of nonhomestead property with a value of \$2 million or more to pay a portion of the temporary tax bill to an escrow account held by the tax commissioner until the appeal is settled;
- Consolidate the provisions that define the amount of interest due once an appeal is settled into a single subsection;
- Change the eligibility to request a refund of paid taxes or license fees from a case where it has been determined that the tax or fee was illegally

erroneously collected to an allegation that the tax or fee was illegally or erroneously collected;

- Redefine the authorized time frame for submitting a refund request to the governing authority and filing suit in court for a refund.

HB 782 Out of State Unlicensed Businesses Allowed to Operate During State Declared Disasters

(Rep. Bruce Williamson, 115th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation allows out of state utility contractors to come to Georgia from 10 days before until 60 days after a state of emergency to provide clean up, restoration and rebuilding of infrastructure and property without paying any taxes (other than sales tax), without being licensed.

HB 788 Board of Regents Property Operated by Third Party is Tax Exempt

(Rep. Lynne Riley, 50th)

Effective April 24, 2014- This bill expands the scope of the "public property" exemption from ad valorem taxation to include "all interests in property" that is "owned" by the Board of Regents but "held" by a third party under a contract to "operate" the property as long as the property's primary use is to "serve" a public college or university. The ad valorem exemption is contingent upon approval in a statewide referendum.

HB 900 Sales Tax Exemption on Consumable Supplies Used in Manufacturing

(Rep. Brett Harrel, 106th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation adds "consumable supplies" to the list of items that qualify for the sales tax exemption for machinery and items used in manufacturing.

HB 933 Extend Sales Tax Exemption on Property Used in the Maintenance or Repair of Aircraft

(Rep. Alex Atwood, 179th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This bill makes the sales and use tax exemption for maintenance and repair of aircraft to permanent.

HB 954 Reduce Taxable Value of Properties Utilizing Low Income Housing Tax Credits(Rep. Brett Harrel, 106th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This bill provides additional criteria that a tax assessor is required to apply in determining the taxable value of property utilizing low income housing tax credits. The new criteria includes rent limitations, operational requirements, and other restrictions imposed on property that is eligible for certain income tax credits or that receives certain state or federal subsidies.

HB 958 Sales Tax Exemptions for Certain Purposes and Governor's Competitive Initiative(Rep. Chad Nimmer, 178th)

Effective April 24, 2014; Section I is retroactively applicable beginning January 1, 2014- While this legislation changes the state income tax credit for certain entertainment production companies, it impacts counties by extending or reinstating several sales tax exemptions. The legislation reinstates the sales tax exemption on food and food ingredients sold to a food bank through 2016. It reinstates the sales tax holiday and the energy efficient Product Tax Holiday for 2014 and 2015. It further extends the sales tax exemption on personal property used for and in the construction of a competitive project of regional importance through June of 2016. The projected fiscal impact statewide on local governments is approximately \$44.45 million per year. These exemptions arose out of the Governor's Competitiveness Initiative Committee that met during the interim.

HB 983 GATE - Amendments to the Georgia Agriculture Sales Tax Exemption(Rep. Tom McCall, 33rd)

Effective January 1, 2015- This bill provides additional restrictions and clarification on who and what is eligible to receive the sales tax exemption on agriculture related purchases. It requires the Commissioner of Agriculture to use certain designated criteria to determine eligibility and provides limits on GATE card issuance by:

- Eliminating eligibility of real property contractors;
- Eliminating eligibility solely for the ownership of land in CUVA;
- Eliminating eligibility for businesses that sell or provide services for domestic pets
- Defines the IRS forms that must be used to prove farm income; and
- Clarifies that the Department of Revenue has rule making and audit authority over the program.

HB 1000 Debt Setoff Collection Against State Income Tax Refunds for Court Fines Owed to Counties(Rep. Barry Fleming, 121st)

Effective January 1, 2015- This bill provides for debt set off collection against state income tax refunds for any and all court costs, surcharges, and fines for which there is an outstanding judgment. The debt set off process would be managed the Administrative Office of the courts who may contract with a local government clearinghouse operated by ACCG and GMA to interface with the Department of Revenue to intercept the state tax return.

Study Committees

HR 1573 Joint Study Committee on Transportation Infrastructure Funding

(Rep. Jay Roberts, 155th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation creates the Joint Study Committee on Critical Transportation Infrastructure Funding for the purposes of studying options for transportation funding. It further provides that the ACCG Executive Director will serve on the committee.

HR 1723 Creation of House Study Committee on Licensing and Inspection of Child Welfare Providers

(Rep. Andrew Welch, 110th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation creates the House Study Committee on Licensing and Inspection of Child Welfare Providers.

HR 1805 Creation of House Study Committee on For Hire Transportation Services and DUI Recidivism, Driver's License Suspensions, and Reinstatements

(Rep. Alan Powell, 32nd)

Effective July 1, 2014 - This legislation creates the House Study Committee on For Hire Transportation Services and DUI Recidivism and Driver's License Suspensions and Reinstatements. The Study Committee must file a report by December 1, 2014.

SR 875 Reporting of Tax Abatements and Other Economic Development Incentives Impacting Tax Digests

(Sen. Jack Hill, 4th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation establishes a joint committee to study the impact of tax digest reporting, tax abatements, any economic development related revenues paid "in lieu" of taxes and any other arrangements that impact local digests or education funding. The study committee would also consider establishing a central clearinghouse where reports on tax digests impacts would be submitted for public inspection.

SR 986 Senate Unified Courts Technology Study Committee

(Sen. Joshua McKoon, 29th)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation creates the Senate Unified Courts Technology Study Committee, which will have seven members: four appointed by the President of the Senate, two appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Ironically, there are no local county representatives, despite the fact that all court technology is financed by local government.

SR 1203 Creation of Senate Study Committee on 9-1-1 System Modernization

(Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd)

Effective July 1, 2014- This legislation creates a Senate Study Committee on 9-1-1 modernization, comprised of five members of the Senate. The committee will study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems with the current 9-1-1 system and make recommendations on actions or legislation needed.

Appropriations

HB 743 FY2014 Amended Budget

(Rep. David Ralston, 7th)

Effective date February 26, 2014 - The supplemental appropriations bill provides for the midyear adjustment to the FY2014 budget.

HB 744 FY2015 Budget

(Rep. David Ralston, 7th)

Effective date July 1, 2014- This bill is the general appropriations for FY2015.

Vetoed Legislation

HB 670 New Fees Paid to Superior Court Clerks for Trade Name Registrations and Creation of Statewide Registry

(Rep. Barry Fleming, 121st)- **Vetoed April 29, 2014**

This legislation increases the filing fee to register a trade name from \$15.00 to \$20.00. It creates a new fee to cancel a trade name registration of \$22.00 and creates a new fee to re-register an existing trade name of \$20.00. The bill requires \$5.00 of the fee to be paid to the Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority to fund the creation and maintenance of the Statewide Registry of Trade Names. On January 20, 2020, the fees will be reduced by \$5.00 and the funding of the statewide registry of trade names will be discontinued.

HB 729 Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) Reforms

(Rep. Tom Rice, 95th)- **Vetoed April 29, 2014**

This bill makes substantial revisions to state and local title ad valorem tax. These revisions:

- Establish the trade-in value of a used vehicle at the department of revenue book value to prevent inflating trade-ins to reduce TAVT;
- Define the taxable value of a kit car;
- Clarify when a tax commissioner may deviate from the defined taxable value;
- Provide for a new trade-in credit for leased vehicles;
- Require the Department of Revenue to promulgate a standardized bill of sale;
- Require used vehicle dealers to file the title work and TAVT on behalf of their customer;
- Specify a county administrative fee of 1% on TAVT collected for cities and the school system;
- Increase the penalty for failing to title and register a vehicle from a misdemeanor to a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature;
- Authorize the transfer of a vehicle through a divorce decree or court order to be treated as a family transfer;
- Clarify that a motor vehicle dealer can apply for a refund on behalf of a purchaser and must pay the refund to the purchaser within 10 days of receipt;
- Extend the expiration date of a temporary tag to 45 days and authorizes a 30 day extension when a title is delayed due to the failure of a security interest or lien holder to timely release the security interest or lien;
- Clarify that electronic title registrations must be filed with the county instead of the Department of Revenue.

HB 837 Clarification of Legislative Intent Regarding Misdemeanor Probation Services

(Rep. Mark Hamilton, 24th)- **Vetoed April 29, 2014**

This legislation clarifies the General Assembly's intent regarding the use and provision of probation services by courts for misdemeanor and ordinance violations. It clarifies the ability of judges to toll warrants of probationers who abscond during their probationary period without meeting the conditions of their sentence.

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