



Final Legislative Update

Volume # 10, Issue 13 – May 17, 2019

2019 Session of the General Assembly

The 2019 Session of the General Assembly ended at midnight on Tuesday, April 2nd. This was the first year of the biennial legislative session, so all bills introduced this year that did not pass remain eligible for passage next year. The 2019 Session ushered in new leadership in the Senate and the Governor's Office. ACCG met with our new leaders, Governor Kemp and Lt. Governor Duncan, on policy issues of importance to counties and expressed our desire to continue a strong partnership between state and local government. ACCG and GMA also strengthened the partnership between counties and cities this Session by working very closely on many policy objectives impacting both counties and cities. The Policy Councils of both organizations also hosted a dinner for legislators who formerly served as local government officials.

ACCG made progress on several of our policy objectives in the 2019 ACCG Legislative Agenda, including the passage of guidelines for small cell (5G) deployment (SB 66), authorization for EMCs to provide broadband services (SB 2), changing TAVT by eliminating trade-in abuse on used car sales (SB 65), improving the collection of sales tax on out-of-state vendors (HB 182), clarifying the law on passing stopped school buses (SB 25), creation of a new commission on behavioral health (HB 514), and the defeat of HB 411 that would have prohibited local governments from placing fees on their property tax bills. Several funding objectives were also accomplished, including \$150 million to replace voting equipment in all counties, a \$2 increase in the daily per diem for county correctional institutes, \$26 million in new funding for behavioral health crisis centers, and \$33.7 million to bring current FLPA grant reimbursements to local governments.

The following report summarizes bills that passed, along with their effective dates. The report also documents the bills that did not pass, but remain eligible for passage next year, and study committees that have been created to possibly recommend legislative action next year. If you have questions about legislation passed or considered during the 2019 Session, please email the appropriate ACCG Policy Staff member listed at the beginning of each section of the report using the contact information on the last page of this report.

This report also contains a review of the final appropriations bills and lists items of interest to counties by state agency. For a complete overview, see Appendix E for the 2019 Supplemental Budget and the 2020 Budget.

ACCG thanks all commissioners, County Legislative Coordinators (CLCs), and county staff who supported the Association's Legislative Agenda this year by meeting with legislators and making personal contact through phone calls and emails. A special thank you to this year's Policy Council for their hard work and dedication. County officials serve as the critical component of the ACCG advocacy efforts.

Your involvement was instrumental in passing legislation that will benefit counties and stopping or modifying several bills that would have been detrimental to Georgia's local governments.

Bills Passed

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORTATION

[Staff: Kathleen Bowen / Larry Ramsey]

[HB 224 Tax Credits for Job Creation in Rural Counties](#) (Rep. Bruce Williamson, 115th) *Effective July 1, 2019. The provisions described below shall be applicable to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020.* This legislation will allow businesses in certain rural and economically distressed counties to utilize the investment tax credit against payroll withholding. In addition, the number of jobs necessary to qualify for the quality jobs tax credit is lowered from the creation of 50 jobs to 10 new jobs in Tier 1 rural counties and the creation of 25 new jobs in Tier 2 rural counties. This legislation defines "rural county" as one that has a population of less than 50,000, with 10 percent or more of such population living in poverty, based upon the most recent, applicable data published by the US Bureau of Census.

[HB 352 Sales Tax Exemption for Projects of Regional Significance](#) (Rep. Bert Reeves, 34th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation extends, through June 30, 2021, the existing sales tax exemption for goods used in the construction of a "competitive project of regional significance." The location or expansion of the project must be in Georgia and determined by the Georgia Department of Economic Development as having a significant regional impact.

[HB 454 Rules of the Road for Electric Assisted Bicycles](#) (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation establishes regulations for electric assisted bicycles ("e-bikes") and defines three classes of e-bikes. E-bikes will follow the same rules of the road as human powered bikes and local governments will have the authority to allow or restrict the use of e-bikes on bicycle paths or shared paths where bicycles are permitted.

[HR 37 Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics](#) (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th) This resolution creates a joint House and Senate Commission tasked with studying and assessing the freight and logistics infrastructure, investment projects and priorities in Georgia. The commission will consist of 22 members, four of which will be local government officials.

[HR 214 House Rural Development Council: Reauthorized](#) (Rep. Sam Watson, 172nd) This resolution reauthorizes the House Rural Development Council through December 31, 2020.

[HR 368 / SR 44 Resolution Supporting the Proposed Interstate 14 through GA](#) (Richard Smith, 134th / Ed Harbison, 15th) This resolution urges support for Interstate 14, a proposed highway that would run from Interstate 10 in West Texas to Interstate 20 in Augusta, Georgia. Many counties in Middle Georgia have passed resolutions supporting this effort.

GENERAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT
[Staff: Todd Edwards]

[HB 33 Weapons Permit – Renewal of Extension](#)

[for Active Military](#) (Rep. Eddie Lumsden, 12th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation enables active duty military service members to have an extension on renewing their weapons carry license. If the license expires while the service member is on active duty outside the state, the individual has six months from their return to renew it (via the presentation of their official military orders) without being required to obtain a new license.

[HB 196 Training for Boards of Public Retirement](#)

[Systems](#) (Rep. Tommy Benton, 31st) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation requires that trustees of all public retirement system complete training on the trustees' duties. Newly appointed trustees must complete at least 8 hours of training within 14 months of appointment; trustees who have served at least one year are required to complete at least 12 hours of training every 2 years. Failure to complete such training requires removal of the trustee.

[HB 314 – Boat Titles](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens, 164th)

Effective July 1, 2020. This legislation requires the issuance of ownership titles for all watercraft used in state waters. Title applications will be processed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Title records will allow for easier tracking of boat ownership for ad valorem taxation and other purposes.

[HB 315 Local Bids – Consultants Who Help Draft](#)

[Must Disclose any Conflict of Interest](#) (Rep. Mark Newton, 123rd) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation requires consultants who help draft local governments' bid, proposal, procurement or purchasing specifications to disclose and detail whether they or their family have any possible conflicts of interest or financial interests with a firm who may respond to the bid/proposal. There are exceptions for confidential economic development activities and for economic development authorities, and while attorneys must disclose the existence of a conflict, they do not have to provide details.

[HB 316 Election Reforms and Voting Machine](#)

[Replacement](#) (Rep. Barry Fleming, 121st) *Effective April 2, 2019.* This omnibus election legislation will have the state provide new, uniform voting machines for every county in Georgia "as soon as possible". Voting equipment consists of ballot marking devices (i.e., electronic devices, like the DRE interface currently used), which produce a paper ballot that is then scanned into a recording device that tabulates votes. Among other election revisions, the bill provides additional notice before a voter's registration is rejected, before a felon is removed from the rolls, and to those appearing to have moved to another state; changes from three to five years the period of inactivity before a voter is removed from the rolls, also requiring notification prior to removal; requires counties to provide additional notice of any precinct changes; provides a cure period if a voter's signature on an absentee ballot does not mirror that used in registration; and lifts the 10-voter limit on persons assisting disabled or other individuals complete absentee ballots. Additionally, the bill enrolls Georgia in a 25-state collaboration - the Electronic Registration Information Center - to share voting information in order to track and cancel voters who move out of state. **For a detailed summary of HB 316, see [Appendix A](#).**

[HB 322 Georgia Procurement Registry –](#)

[Revisions to Local Government Mandate](#) (Rep. Tom McCall, 33rd) *Effective April 28, 2019.* Following up on last session's HB 489, this bill makes changes to local requirements on posting bids and proposals on the Georgia Procurement Registry (GPR). Under current law, if a local government extends a bid or proposal for goods or services valued at over \$10,000, they must also advertise them on the GPR. This bill increases that monetary threshold to only goods or services valued at over \$100,000. In return, however, counties must advertise the bid/proposal on the GPR for the same period of time "as set by ordinance or practice" of the county.

HB 493 Local Plan Review and Permitting – Expand Private Party Participation

(Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th) *Effective July 1, 2019*. This legislation requires local governments that impose regulatory fees or requirements on development/building permits (inspection and plan review) to establish and make available a list of such fees/requirements and all the documentation required of an applicant. The local government has five business days from receipt of an application to notify the applicant whether an application is complete. Once the application is complete, the local government must inform the applicant whether a plan review can be completed within 30 days, or an inspection can be completed within two days. If the city or county determines it cannot provide said actions within the above time frames, the applicant may then retain, at its own expense, a private professional provider to perform the plan review or inspection (so long as they don't have a financial interest in nor are affiliated with any entity engaged in the project under review). If that option is selected by the applicant, the local government regulatory fees will be reduced by 50 percent. Even if the local government determines that it can perform the plan review or inspection within the above time frames, the applicant may nonetheless select a private professional to conduct the services but will pay the city or county 100 percent of its "convenience" fees. In addition, HB 493:

- Allows a local government to pre-qualify companies that choose to handle permit reviews;
- Requires a local government finding a deficiency in a permit review to provide a written notice of the deficiency within 30 days to allow the private plan review professional to either correct the deficiency or dispute it;
- Requires a local government finding a deficiency in any inspection to provide a written notice of the deficiency within 2 days to allow the private plan review professional to either correct the deficiency or dispute it;
- Retains the ability of local governments to issue stop-work orders when problems arise;
- Keeps the granting of a certificate of occupancy with the local government.

SB 2 Authorizes EMCs to Provide Broadband Service and Utilize Electric Easements

(Sen. Steve Gooch, 51st) *Effective April 26, 2019*. This legislation authorizes Georgia's Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) to provide broadband services, either directly or indirectly through a contractual arrangement or through an affiliate, within their respective jurisdictions in Georgia. EMCs are not able to "cross-subsidize" their broadband services through their electric or gas funds, nor are they able to charge the costs of their broadband services to their electric or gas customers. Those EMCs providing broadband have a duty to provide access to their poles and rights of way to all communications service providers on rates, terms and conditions that are reasonable and nondiscriminatory. Other communications service providers or EMC members can petition to enforce the above conditions with the Georgia Public Service Commission. EMCs will also be eligible to apply for federal and/or state loans and grants to provide this service. EMCs already providing broadband services have until January 1, 2021 to comply with the provisions of this law.

The language from HB 499 was attached to this bill, permitting broadband services to be deployed in electrical easements so long as additional poles or other ground-based structures are not employed and so long as this does not change the nature of the easement nor interfere with or impair any vested rights of the easement owner or occupier. Broadband providers, or owners of electric easements, may install, maintain, lease and operate broadband equipment in the easement without incurring liability or paying additional compensation to the owner of the property subject to the easement. Owners of electric easements may assess fees and impose reasonable conditions on the use of facilities within the easement.

SB 17 Authorization for Rural Telephone Coops to Provide Broadband Service

(Sen. Steve Gooch, 51st) *Effective April 26, 2019*. This legislation authorizes Georgia's four Telephone Cooperatives to provide broadband services, either directly or indirectly through a contractual arrangement or through an affiliate. Coops will also be eligible to apply for federal and/or state loans and grants to provide this service.

[SB 66 Small Cell \(5G\) Legislation – ACCG](#)

[Compromise Language](#) (Sen. Steve Gooch, 51st) *Effective October 1, 2019; however, pre-deployment meeting language in O.C.G.A. 36-66C-3 became effective April 26, 2019.* Over the past two years ACCG has opposed legislation that would have largely preempted local government management of the public's rights of way for the placement of small cell (5G) poles, antennas and equipment. At the urging of the General Assembly, ACCG, GMA, Verizon and AT&T negotiated this reasonable, balanced compromise over the 2018 interim, incorporating many safeguards which ACCG had called for in previous legislation. Key points of this ACCG compromise include: incentives for collocation in order to limit new poles; protections for historic districts and residential areas; requirements that telecoms share build-out plans prior to deploying new facilities; a safe-harbor in case the current FCC order preempting state and local regulation of 5G deployment is overturned; the prohibition of speculative permit requests by third parties; and safeguards for local aesthetic and decorative pole conditions, among many others. Please click [here](#) for a detailed, section-by-section summary of the bill, and [here](#) for a one-pager.

For a brief summary of the bill's key provisions, see [Appendix B](#).

[SB 77 Monuments – Prohibit their Removal and Increase Penalties for Damaging or Removing](#)

(Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd) *Effective April 26, 2019.* This legislation makes it unlawful to mutilate, deface, defile or abuse any publicly owned monument, plaque, statue, marker, flag, banner, structure, name, display or memorial (that is meant to be permanently displayed and that is dedicated to a historical entity or historically significant military, religious, civil, civil rights, political, social or cultural event) and that is located, erected, constructed, created or maintained on real property owned by local governments or the state of Georgia. SB 77 maintains current law, prohibiting local governments from removing these monuments from public property; however, local governments may relocate a monument when it is necessary for the construction,

expansion or alteration of edifices, buildings, roads, streets or other transportation infrastructure, so long as it is relocated to a site of similar prominence (excluding a museum, cemetery or mausoleum, unless the monument was originally placed at such a location). The bill also increases the penalties on those who damage, destroy or lose a monument (without replacing it).

[SB 95 Locals Can Contract for Utilities for up to 20 Years](#)

(Sen. Randy Robertson, 29th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation authorizes local governments to enter into contracts for utility services (e.g., electric, natural gas or water services) for terms up to 20 years. Current law allows local governments/authorities to contract for said services for up to 10 years.

[SB 171 Local Constitutional Officers – An Additional 5-percent Pay Raise](#)

(Sen. John Wilkinson, 50th) *Effective Jan. 1, 2021.* This legislation first re-sets the base salaries for all local constitutional officers (i.e., sheriff, clerk of superior court, tax commissioner and probate judge) to their current amount - accounting for all cost of living adjustments COLAs received since 2006 - then increases that base salary by five percent.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

[Staff: Debra Nesbit]

[HB 186 Reform of Certificate of Need Process for Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens, 164th) *Effective April 25, 2019*. This legislation revises Certificate of Need (CON) provisions, extends the Rural Hospital Tax Credit and creates the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination. **For a detailed summary of HB 186, see [Appendix C](#).**

[HB 242 Framework for the Regulation of Massage Therapy](#) (Rep. Lee Hawkins, 27th) *Effective July 1, 2019*. This legislation establishes board certification of massage therapy educational programs, within and outside of the state, that meet the standards for training and curriculum set by the rules of the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy. The legislation allows the board to request on-site inspections of massage therapy businesses and requires these businesses to continuously maintain liability insurance coverage for bodily injuries and property damage. Further, massage therapy businesses must comply with appropriate advertising requirements. The bill increases fines for non-compliance and unlawful acts. A provision was added that allows local governments to run criminal background checks on owners and employees. The massage therapists themselves will undergo a criminal background check through the Secretary of State.

[HB 321 Extension of the Hospital Provider Fee for Medicaid Financing Program and Transparency Requirements for Hospitals](#) (Rep. Jodi Lott, 122nd) *Effective April 25, 2019*. This legislation extends until June 30, 2025 the sunset provision for the hospital provider fee known as the "Medicaid Financing Program" as the state match in pulling down Medicaid dollars. The bill also provides for reporting of donations to rural hospitals whereby donors receive a tax credit.

[HB 514 Creation of the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission](#) (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th) *Effective July 1, 2019*. This legislation creates the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission. The purpose of this commission is to conduct a comprehensive review of the behavioral health system in Georgia. The

commission will review the behavioral health services and facilities available in Georgia, the identification of behavioral health issues in children, adolescents, and adults, as well as the role the education system has in the identification and treatment of behavioral health issues. Additionally, the commission will review the impact behavioral health issues have on the criminal justice system, the state's homeless population, delivery of care, access to care, the role of payers in such access, and the impact untreated behavioral illness has on children transitioning into adulthood. The commission will conclude on June 30, 2023.

[HB 551 Prohibit Access to Kratom by Persons under the Age 18](#) (Rep. Dewayne Hill, 3rd) *Effective July 1, 2019*. This legislation sets forth requirements for the sale of "kratom," a tropical evergreen that contains the alkaloid mitragynine, which causes psychotropic or mind-altering effects. The bill creates a misdemeanor offense for anyone transferring possession to those under the age of 18, and for those under 18-years old who possess or buy it. To sell kratom, the packaging must: clearly label ingredients; provide notice that the sale or transfer of possession to those under the age of 18 is prohibited; state the amount of mitragynine in the product; state the name and principal mailing address of the manufacturer; provide clear directions for safe use of the product; and note any precautionary statements about the safety and effectiveness of the product.

[SB 106 Patient's First Act - Allow Governor to Apply for Medicaid Waivers](#) (Sen. Blake Tillery, 19th) *Effective date March 27, 2019*. The 'Patients First Act' authorizes the Department of Community Health (DCH) to submit Medicaid waiver requests to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by June 30, 2020. This may include an increase in the income threshold of up to a maximum of 100 percent of the federal poverty level. Upon approval of this waiver, the bill would authorize DCH to implement the terms and conditions without any further legislative action. With the approval of waivers there is the potential for many more of our local citizens to obtain health care coverage for both physical and

mental health services, thereby reducing counties' indigent care costs and potentially reducing the number of mentally ill patients that end up in our local jails.

[SB 115 Allow Out of State Physicians to Engage in the Practice of Telemedicine in Georgia](#) (Sen. Renee Unterman, 45th) *Effective July 1, 2019*. This legislation amends the 'Medical Practice Act of the State of Georgia' by authorizing the Georgia Composite Medical Board to issue telemedicine licenses to physicians who are licensed in other states but not licensed in Georgia for the specific practice of telemedicine.

[SB 118 Modernize Telemedicine Act - Require Insurers to Cover Telemedicine Services](#) (Sen. Renee Unterman, 45th) *Effective January 1, 2020*. This legislation modernizes the 'Georgia Telemedicine Act' by renaming it 'Georgia Telehealth Act'. The

legislation requires that each insurer that issues a health benefit policy provide coverage for the cost of healthcare services provided through telehealth or telemedicine. The legislation prohibits exclusion of a service from coverage solely because the service is provided through telemedicine rather than through in-person consultation or contact between a provider and a patient. A health care provider or telemedicine provider is not required to accept more reimbursement than they are willing to charge and payment for telemedicine interactions will include reasonable compensation to the originating or distant site for the transmission cost incurred during the delivery of healthcare services. This legislation also requires insurers to reimburse the provider for the diagnosis, consultation, or treatment of the insured via telemedicine services on the same basis and at not less than the rate the insurer is responsible for when the provision of the same service is done through in person consultation or contact.

NATURAL RESOURCES & the ENVIRONMENT

[Staff: Kathleen Bowen]

[HB 213 Georgia Hemp Farming Act](#) (Rep. John Corbett, 174th) *Effective May 10, 2019*. This legislation allows for the farming of industrial hemp. The bill authorizes the Georgia Department of Agriculture to issue hemp growers licenses and hemp processors permits as well as requires the Department to create a plan to regulate hemp production. Colleges and universities within the University System of Georgia would be allowed to conduct research on the cultivation and uses of hemp. Hemp growers and producers would have to get a criminal background check conducted by local law enforcement. In addition, they would be required to give the GBI, Dept of Agriculture and state and local law enforcement access to where hemp is being processed, handled, cultivated or harvested to conduct inspections.

[HB 220 Reauthorize Hazardous and Solid Waste Trust Funds](#) (Rep. Terry Rogers, 10th) *Effective June 30, 2019*. This legislation renews the fees that make up the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund (HWTF) and the Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) for three years, from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2022. Effective from July 1, 2020, until June 30, 2022, the 75¢ per ton of solid waste disposal fee would be reduced to 51¢ per ton.

Effective from July 1, 2020, until June 30, 2022, the \$1 fee imposed upon the retail sale of all new replacement tires would be reduced to 38¢ per tire sold. In effect, the fees are reduced by the percentages that were not appropriated for their intended purposes in the last completed fiscal year, 2018. The HWTF and SWTF support efforts including clean-up of abandoned contaminated sites, leaking landfills, scrap tires and illegal dumps; in addition, funds go towards waste reduction and recycling programs.

[HB 382 GA Outdoor Stewardship Act - Clean Up Bill](#) (Rep. Jon Burns, 159th) *Effective July 1, 2019*. This legislation is a clean-up bill to last year's Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act (HB 332). Language is included that expands the definition of who is eligible to receive grant and loan funds from the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund to now include "constituted recreation authorities". Local governments were already included as eligible recipients.

[HB 445 Shore Protection](#) (Don Hogan, 179th) *Effective May 3, 2019*. This legislation changes the permitting requirements and definitions related to

the Shore Protection Act. This bill also makes changes to the Shore Protection Committee as it relates to minor activities.

PUBLIC SAFETY & the COURTS [Staff: Debra Nesbit]

[HB 118 Revises Offense of Transmitting False Alarm and Creates Offense of Causing Harm or Injury to Emergency Responder](#) (Rep. Marc Morris, 26th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation replaces the offense of "transmitting a false public alarm" with the offense of "making an unlawful request for emergency services assistance." A person commits this offense when they knowingly and intentionally transmit a request for emergency services assistance when there are no reasonable grounds for the request. Additionally, it is an offense when the unlawful request involves or relates to: a destructive device or hazardous substance located in a place where the detonation or release would endanger human life, cause injury or damage to property; an individual who has caused or threatened physical harm to themselves or another person by using a deadly weapon or any instrument that is likely to result in serious bodily injury; an individual who has committed a criminal act involving the use or threat of physical force or violence or an act constituting an immediate threat to any person's life or safety; or the use of any electronic device or software to alter or conceal or attempt to alter or conceal the requestor's identity. Conviction of a felony for an unlawful request which results in serious bodily harm or death to a responding agent from a public safety agency requires a minimum sentence of imprisonment for one, but not more than 10. years and a minimum fine of \$5,000.

[HB 134 Repeal of Population Cap for Disposition of Law Library Funds](#) (Rep. Bonnie Rich, 97th) *Effective May 7, 2019.* This legislation removes the population cap of 950,000 from the statute regarding disposition of law library funds. Currently, law library funds are managed by law library boards in each county and are restricted to the operation of the law libraries. If a county reaches a population of 950,000 the law library funds revert to the county. With the upcoming census several counties may exceed the 950,000 population cap. This legislation

removes the cap to allow those law library boards to continue management of the law library funds.

[HB 239 Establish the Georgia Business Court/Exempt Counties from Paying Mandatory Civil E-Filing Fee](#) (Rep. Chuck Efration, 104th) *Effective May 7, 2019.* This legislation creates the Georgia Business Court and provides for the salaries of the judge and all employees as well as the operating expenses through the state budget. The creation of the court will not impact local budgets. This legislation was amended to include SB 38, exempting counties from the payment of the e-filing fee in civil cases.

[HB 257 Revision of the Organization of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges, Increase in Surety Bond Amount](#) (Rep. Mitchell Scoggins, 14th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation revises the method of organization of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges from a statutory scheme to the ability of the Council to adopt a constitution and bylaws. The bill also increases the surety bond amount from \$25,000 to \$100,000 for magistrate court judges. The cost of the bond is paid from county funds.

[HB 307 Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act](#) (Rep. Alan Powell, 32nd) *Effective May 7, 2019 for the development of forms, for all other purposes the effective date is September 1, 2019.* This legislation sets forth a new procedure for magistrate courts to foreclose on liens on abandoned vehicles and increases the filing fee from \$10.00 to \$25.00. The legislation also provides new procedures for towing companies filing for lien foreclosures. Additionally, the legislation requires that any excess funds from the sale of abandoned vehicles be remitted to the Department of Revenue Unclaimed Property Division. **For a detailed summary of HB 307, see [Appendix D](#).**

[HB 387 Allows Private, Nonprofit and Volunteer Fire Departments to File a Property Lien for Unpaid Services Requested by the Property Owner](#)

(Rep. Eddie Lumsden, 12th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation establishes a new category of lien in favor of private, non-profit, volunteer fire departments for debts that stem from the performance of their services which are requested by property owners.

[HB 458 Prohibition of Class B Fire Fighting Foam](#)

(Rep. Joseph Gullett, 19th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation prohibits the use of PFAS in Class B firefighting foam during training, unless it is used at a training facility capable of preventing the release of the foam into the environment. The bill does not restrict the use of foam containing PFAS for fire-fighting operations.

[HB 492 Require Writ of Possession be Enforced within 30 Days in Dispossession Proceedings in Magistrate Court](#)

(Rep. Bonnie Rich, 97th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation amends the code section relating to landlord proceedings to evict a tenant and recover possession of the property. Under current law, a landlord may apply for a writ of possession (eviction order) issued by the court but there is no time frame for the landlord to make application for the execution of the writ (service of the eviction order) by the sheriff or marshal. Many of the cases remain open and on the dockets in magistrate court. This legislation requires that landlords make application for execution of the writ (service of the eviction order) by the sheriff or marshal within 30 days of the issuance of the order. Failure of the landlord to make application to execute the eviction will close the case and the landlord must file another action and pay all filing fees. This legislation eliminates landlords filing unnecessary, time consuming and administratively costly filings in the magistrate court, thereby reducing caseload and workload.

[SB 6 Felony Offense for Use of Drone to Deliver Contraband to or Photograph Any Correctional Facility](#)

(Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, 32nd) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation makes it unlawful for any person to intentionally use an unmanned aircraft system to deliver to an inmate weapons, liquor,

drugs, telecommunications devices, or tobacco products without the authorization of the warden, superintendent, sheriff or his or her designee. The legislation also prohibits the intentional photographing or otherwise recording of images of a place of incarceration through the use of the unmanned aircraft systems. Persons who commit or attempt to commit a violation of this provision are guilty of a felony. Upon a conviction for attempting to deliver or for delivering contraband, the person must be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than one nor more than 10 years.

[SB 25 Passing Stopped School Bus](#)

(Sen. Bill Heath, 31st) *Effective February 15, 2019.* This bill clarifies that drivers are allowed to continue driving past a stopped school bus on roadways that are separated by a grass median, unpaved area, or physical barrier. Drivers are not allowed to pass a stopped school bus on a roadway with only a turning lane separating the two lanes of traffic.

[SB 29 Clarification of Waiver of Immunity for Sheriff's Deputies and Employees in Motor Vehicle Claims](#)

(Sen. Harold Jones, 22nd) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation revises the definition of "officer" as it relates to sovereign immunity to expressly include sheriff, deputy sheriff, or other agent, servant or employee of a sheriff's office, so that these individuals are protected from liability for official acts involving use of a motor vehicle in the performance of his or her official duties.

[SB 31 No Liability for Law Enforcement Officers Performing Duty at the Scene of an Emergency](#)

(Sen. Michael Rhett, 33rd) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation states law enforcement officers employed by state or local government are immune from liability for actions taken while performing duties at the scene of an emergency, unless the law enforcement officer's actions constitute gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or malfeasance. Emergencies include imminent danger to life or health of a person or pet, such as rescuing a person or pet from inside a locked motor vehicle.

REVENUE & TAXATION

[Staff: Larry Ramsey]

[HB 182 Sales Tax Collections by Out-of-State/Internet Sellers](#) (Rep. Brett Harrell, 106th) *Effective July 1, 2019; lower threshold effective January 1, 2020.* This legislation lowers the threshold at which out-of-state vendors are required to collect and remit state and local sales taxes. These are taxes that are currently owed, but largely not being collected. Under 2018's HB 61, out-of-state vendors that sell \$250,000 or more of goods (or 200 or more transactions) into Georgia annually must either collect all sales taxes or send the purchaser and the Department of Revenue (DOR) annual notice of those purchases. This legislation lowers the threshold to \$100,000 and eliminates the notice option, with the result that all such vendors will be required to collect and remit to DOR all sales taxes. This legislation is estimated to increase local sales tax collections by \$7M-10M per year (in addition to the estimated \$200M-\$300M per year from last year's legislation).

[HB 183 Tax Appeal Procedures](#) (Rep. Brett Harrell, 106th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation clarifies that an appeal of a property tax assessment may be filed regardless of whether the owner has previously filed a return for that property in that tax year.

[HB 288 Superior Court Filing Fees](#) (Rep. Alan Powell, 32nd) *Effective January 1, 2020.* This legislation eliminates the current per-page fees for filing deeds and other documents with the Superior Court Clerk and instead imposes a flat fee of \$25 per document. It also increases the per-page filing fee for plats to \$10.

[HB 349 Expansion of County Powers for Tax Allocation Districts](#) (Rep. Chuck Martin, 49th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation permits counties to create tax allocation districts (TADs) anywhere within the county, as opposed to only in unincorporated areas. A county's creation of a TAD within city limits will require approval by the city via resolution.

[HB 379 Revision of SPLOST Reporting Requirements](#) (Rep. Beth Moore, 95th) *Effective May 7, 2019.* Under current law, local governments

receiving special purpose local-option sales tax (SPLOST) funds must publish each year by December 31st a report on SPLOST collections and expenditures. This legislation requires instead that the annual report be published no later than six months following the end of the local government's fiscal year, consistent with the timing of local government audits.

[HB 405 Freeport Exemption for Remanufactured Goods](#) (Rep. David Knight, 130th) *Effective July 1, 2019.* This legislation amends the Level 1 Freeport Exemption from ad valorem taxation to include goods held for remanufacture and repair. The legislation also allows exempted goods to be held by the taxpayer's affiliates without losing the exemption.

[HB 406 Joint Development Authorities Project Reporting](#) (Rep. Bruce Williamson, 115th) *Effective May 7, 2019.* This legislation requires joint development authorities with revenue-sharing agreements among participating local governments to provide the state with an annual report of all properties owned by the authority and all contracts regarding tax abatements, payment in lieu of taxes PILOT payments, leaseback agreements, and revenue-sharing agreements, along with information necessary to accurately determine the tax digest for each participating local government. The state auditor will then provide an annual report to each tax commissioner of an affected county so that each tax commissioner may finalize the tax digest.

[SB 65 Title Ad Valorem Tax: Used Cars and Tax Rate](#) (Sen. Tyler Harper, 7th) *Effective January 1, 2020.* This legislation lowers the title ad valorem tax (TAVT) rate from 7% to 6.6% until July 2023, at which time the rate will return to 7%. The bill also revises the methodology for calculating TAVT for used cars sold by dealers, with the TAVT to be calculated on the retail sales price (rather than the current lower "book value", which is an average of retail value and wholesale value). This legislation also provides that the transfer of a motor vehicle between businesses that are at least 50%-owned by the same person would be exempt from paying TAVT on that

transaction, provided that one of such businesses has previously paid TAVT on that vehicle.

SB 157 Depositories for Public Funds (Sen. John Kennedy, 18th) *Effective May 2, 2019*. This legislation expands the permissible depositories for governmental funds, to include "reciprocal deposit" programs under which the funds are distributed to various banks and the funds in each bank are insured by the FDIC. Detailed rules for the program will be developed by the State Depository Board.

SB 216 Agreements for Prepayment of Ad Valorem Taxes (Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd) *Effective July 1, 2019*. This legislation authorizes local governments to enter into voluntary agreements with taxpayers for the prepayment of property taxes. Such agreements require the consent of the tax commissioner for a county or the designated tax collecting official for a city. In addition, this legislation authorizes tax commissioners to conduct tax sales at such location as is identified in the public notice, with a copy of the notice also posted at the courthouse.

Appropriations

[HB 30 - Amended State Fiscal Year 2019 Budget](#) - (Speaker David Ralston, 7th) *Effective March 12, 2019*. The Amended Fiscal Year 2019 budget recognizes \$435.7 million in additional revenue for a 1.6% increase over the FY 2019 budget passed during the 2018 Special Session. This brings the total appropriation for Amended FY 2019 to \$26.9 billion.

[HB 31 - State Fiscal Year 2020 Budget](#) - (Speaker David Ralston, 7th) *Effective July 1, 2019*. House Bill 31, the Fiscal Year 2020 budget, is set by a revenue estimate of \$27.5 billion, an increase of \$1 billion or 3.95% over the FY 2019 original budget. All education agencies receive 55% of available funds, followed by 22% budgeted for health and human services agencies, 8% for public safety activities and the remaining 15% for economic development and general government agencies.

Please see [Appendix E](#) for an overview of the Amended 2019 Budget and the 2020 Budget.

Click [here](#) for line item budget veto statements.

2019 Study Committees

[HR 591 House Study Committee on “Workforce Housing” – Prohibiting Local Government Design Standards](#) (Rep. Vance Smith, 133rd) Following the failure of HB 302 (prohibit local government design standards), this resolution creates a House study committee (made up of five House members) on "workforce housing". Noting that local design mandates infringe on private property rights and consumer choice of building products, increase costs, and prohibit thousands of Georgians from owning new homes, this study committee will make recommendations on legislation to curtail local design standards to be considered next legislative session. (Todd)

[SR 479 Senate Study Committee: E-Scooters and Other Innovative Mobility Options](#) (Steve Gooch, 51st) This resolution creates a Senate Study Committee to review and study e-scooters and other innovative mobility technologies and how local governments, state agencies and universities can work with the companies providing this technology. (Kathleen)

Bills that Failed to Pass in the 2019 Session

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORTATION

- **HB 342 / HB 469** [Statewide Regulations for Booting Vehicles](#)
- **HB 447** [Sales Tax Exemption On Jet Fuel](#)
- **HB 511** [Transit: New State Agency, Funding and Incentives](#)
- **SB 131** [Georgia Major Airport Authority Act](#)
- **SB 159** [Regulations for e-Scooters](#)

GENERAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- HB 24 [Appointments to Local Boards, Authorities and Commissions](#)
- HB 76 [Alcohol - Locals May Reduce State Distance Restrictions on Sales](#)
- HB 136 [Animal Shelters – Must Post Pictures of Impounded Animals on Website](#)
- HB 243 [Telecom: Another Attempt to Reduce Local ROW Fees, Another State Double Standard](#)
- HB 244 [EMCs – Reduce Pole Attachment Rates for Cable and Telecom Providers](#)
- HB 302 [Local Design Standards Preempted](#)
- HB 523 [Short Term Rentals - Preempt Local Government Regulations](#)
- HR 378 [Authorize all Betting and Gambling in GA if Approved by New Commission](#)
- SB 45 [Gambling - Legalize Horse Racing and Pari-mutuel Betting](#)
- SB 51 [Monuments – Allow Local Governments to Remove from their Property](#)
- SB 84 [Guns – Counties Must Provide Free License Renewals](#)
- SB 146 [Liquor Tastings and Brunch Referendum](#)
- SB 162 [Short Term Rentals – Preempt Local Government Regulations](#)

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- HB 178 [Creation of "Assisted Outpatient Treatment" Pilot Programs](#)
- HB 236 [Allows Any First Responder to Engage in Emergency Transport of Patients](#)
- HB 264 [EMSC Transparency Bill](#)
- HB 477 [Exempt Apartment/Condos from Public Health Rules](#)
- HB 518 [Automatic Qualification for EMS Zone Within Boundaries of Existing Zones](#)
- HB 544 [Revise Procedures Regarding Emergency Involuntary Treatment of Mentally Ill](#)
- SB 201 [EMSC Transparency Bill - Requirement to Open Up EMS Zones Every Five Years](#)
- SR 264 [Creation of a Joint Emergency Medical Services Study Committee](#)
-

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

- HB 422 [Land Disturbance Permits](#)
- HB 465 [Water Customer Bill of Rights](#)
- HB 545 [Limitations On Nuisance Claims Against Agriculture Facilities and Operations](#)
- HR 164 [Dedication of Trust Funds \(Constitutional Amendment\)](#)
- SB 123 [Private Landfills: Host Fee Increase for Coal Ash](#)

PUBLIC SAFETY & THE COURTS

- HB 278 [Require Conclusion of Criminal Proceedings Prior to Civil Forfeiture](#)
- HB 439 [Require Juvenile Court Judges to be elected in the Judicial Circuit in which the Judge is to Serve](#)
- HB 440 [Increase Juvenile Court Jurisdiction to Include Children under the Age of 18](#)
- SB 180 [Increase of Base Salary of Magistrate Judges](#)

REVENUE & FINANCE

- HB 102 [Property Tax Exemption for Charitable Institutions](#)
- HB 276 [Marketplace Facilitators Sales Tax Collections](#)
- HB 378 [Rental Car Facilitators Excise Tax Collections](#)
- HB 411 [No Fees on Property Tax Bills](#)
- HB 428 [Communications Services Tax](#)
- HB 448 [Hotel/Motel Facilitators Tax Collections](#)
- SB 119 [Economic Analysis of Tax Credits and Exemptions](#)

Bills Vetoed by the Governor on May 10, 2019

Click [here](#) to review the entire list of Governor Kemp's Official 2019 Veto Statements.

- [HB 311 Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for Non-Monetary Claims](#)
- [SB 15 Keeping Georgia Schools Safe Act](#)
- [SB 103 Priority Airport Parking Spaces for Veterans](#)
- [SB 120 Economic Analysis of Tax Credits and Exemptions](#)
- [SB 153 Registration and Regulation of Companies Providing Trauma Scene Cleanup Services](#)

APPENDIX A



HB 316 – ELECTIONS – REPLACING GEORGIA’S VOTING MACHINES

New Voting Machines

This omnibus election legislation requires the state to provide new, uniform voting machines for every county in Georgia.

This voting equipment will consist of “ballot marking devices” -- electronic devices, similar to the DRE interface currently used by voters -- to mark their ballots. The difference from what is currently used is that these devices then produce a paper “scanning ballot” that can be read and reviewed by the voter prior to the voter placing the ballot in a “ballot scanner”. The ballot scanner is an electronic recording device, which then tabulates the votes of all ballots (also known as a tabulating machine) and stores/retains the scanning ballots, maintaining a paper trail for auditing, if necessary.

A significant portion of HB 316 sets out the requirements and specifications for ballot marking devices, including their display and programming; ballot scanners; all equipment’s examination, testing and storage; vendors’ responsibilities and conflicts of interest; and security.

The Governor’s proposed FY 2020 budget, a separate bill, contains \$150 million in recommended bond funding to pay for this equipment, which, according to HB 316, the state will furnish for use in each Georgia county “as soon as possible”. The procurement of this equipment, as well as its distribution to counties, will be made by the Georgia Secretary of State (SOS) -- once that office has certified the equipment safe and practical for use.

It is anticipated that the equipment will be piloted during the 2019 municipal elections, then ready for use by counties for the 2020 primaries and general elections. The uniform equipment will be used for all federal, state, and county general primaries and general elections, as well as special primaries and special elections in the state. Counties and cities may purchase, lease or otherwise acquire additional equipment at their own expense.

Additional elections revisions contained in HB 316 include:

Voter Registration

- Prior to notifying an applicant that their identity cannot be verified, the local board of registrars must review the application to ensure there are no data entry errors and ensure that the applicant did not provide sufficient evidence of his or her identity.
- Not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days prior to an application being rejected, the board must mail a final notice to the applicant that her or his identification cannot be verified and that he or she must provide additional evidence of their identity.

Removing Inactive Voters from the Rolls

- An elector now has five years (rather than three years in current law) of non-activity/participation with Georgia’s elections process before being removed from the active voting rolls.

APPENDIX A

HB 316 – ELECTIONS – REPLACING GEORGIA’S VOTING, cont.

Accuracy of Elections – Moving Out of State

- The bill authorizes the SOS to enroll Georgia in a 25-state collaboration (the Electronic Registration Information Center) to share voting information in order to track and cancel voters who move out of state. The Center is made up of elections officials of states and U.S. territories that are members.
- When a person moves from Georgia and registers to vote in another state, and Georgia receives notice but not documented proof of the voter registering in the other state, the SOS or board of registrars will send the elector a confirmation that his or her Georgia registration is about to be cancelled.

Felony Verification

- The SOS, upon receiving a list of persons convicted of felonies, will contact county voter registrars, who must then mail a notice to the person’s last known mailing address stating that the voter will be removed from the rolls 30 days after the notification, unless the person requests a hearing to contest said removal.

Precincts and Polling Places

- Counties cannot divide, alter, format or consolidate a voting precinct until at least 30 days’ notice is given in the county legal organ and a copy of the notice is mailed to the SOS. Current law only calls for 10 days’ notice.
- Polling places cannot be changed on Election Day, nor during the 60-day period leading up to general elections nor 30 days for special elections and runoffs, unless there is an emergency or the polling place has become unusable.
- Electors who are entitled to receive voting assistance at a polling place may receive assistance from any person so long as the helper is not their employer, an agent of the employer, or an agent of the elector’s union.
- Voter identification cards remain valid if the voter changes his or her address, so long as the address remains in the same county in which it was issued.
- Counties must provide one ballot marking device per every 250 voters during elections.

Absentee Voting

- Persons in a county jail or in custody, but not convicted of a felony, can now be mailed an absentee ballot to vote. An employee of the jail may mail the ballot back.
- Absentee ballot applications cannot be rejected due to an apparent mismatch between the voter’s signature on the application and their voter registration signature. In these cases, the elector will be mailed a provisional absentee ballot and instructions that he or she can cure the mismatch by submitting an affidavit to the board of registrars along with a copy of appropriate identification.
- Electors no longer have to provide their address or year of birth on the oath provided with a returned absentee ballot.
- Currently a person cannot assist more than 10 disabled or non-English-speaking individuals complete absentee ballots. That limit has been removed. Such a person may assist as many disabled or non-English-speaking individuals as desired.
- Caregivers of a disabled person may now mail back an absentee ballot. Current law allows only family members or someone else living in the household to mail absentee ballots for disabled persons.

APPENDIX A

HB 316 – ELECTIONS – REPLACING GEORGIA’S VOTING, cont.

- Disabled or illiterate persons can now be assisted in voting by anyone of their choice, so long as the person assisting is not an employer, a fellow union member, a candidate, or a family member of a candidate.
- If a voter’s absentee ballot is rejected, a notice is given and the voter has until the end of the period by which to verify provisional ballots to cure their absentee ballot error(s).

Advance and Provisional Voting

- Election superintendents must now notify the SOS (each time that an elector casts a provisional ballot) whether the ballot was counted and, if not counted, the reason why.
- Boards of registrars must now go through additional steps and check additional information before rejecting a provisional ballot. Boards must also notify a voter “at the earliest time possible” that their ballot has been rejected.

Elections Certification and Recounts

- Elections superintendents have four additional days to certify election returns.
- An election’s certification date can be extended by the SOS if it is determined necessary to complete a precertification audit.
- The threshold at which a candidate may request a recount has been reduced from a difference of 1 percent of the votes cast to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent.
- Rules pertaining to mandated precertification audits are revised and spelled out.

APPENDIX B



SB 66 - SMALL CELL WIRELESS DEPLOYMENT - FRAMEWORK of a COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

State Background: During the 2018 legislative session of the Georgia General Assembly, cities and counties faced many preemption attempts from the wireless telecommunications industry to gain nearly unregulated access to the public rights-of-way (ROW) for the placement of 5G wireless small cell poles, antennas, and other communications equipment. While over 20 states had adopted versions of this national wireless initiative, these bills were unsuccessful in Georgia.

At the direction of General Assembly leadership, the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and two major wireless carriers - AT&T and Verizon - were instructed to negotiate a compromise that would balance local government management of the public's ROW with the need to deploy these new technologies in a streamlined fashion throughout the state. The message from leadership was that a failure to reach a compromise would result in 2019 legislation to authorize small cell wireless deployment with or without local protections that could be agreed to through negotiations.

Beginning in July, ACCG, GMA, Verizon and AT&T began meeting every two weeks to discuss a framework for compromise. This negotiation process included approximately 12 face-to-face meetings, numerous hours of conference calls, and over 30 draft versions of legislation.

Federal Action: At the same time as GMA, ACCG, AT&T and Verizon were negotiating a potential small cell wireless bill, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) passed a declaratory rule and order preempting both state and local government regulatory control in the small cell deployment process. The order:

- Limits the time cities have to process applications for small cells to either 60 or 90 days, depending on whether they are being mounted (collocated) on an existing or on a new pole/structure, respectively;
- Caps application/permit fees for small cells to \$100 per site, and recurring fees to \$270 per site, per year, for small cells (whether they are collocated or on new poles) in the rights-of-way;
- Prohibits local governments from assessing fees that include anything other than a “reasonable approximation” of “reasonable costs” directly related to maintaining the rights-of-way and the small cell facility; and
- Limits aesthetic review and requirements (including undergrounding and historic/environmental requirements) to those that are reasonable, comparable to requirements for other rights-of-way users, and those that are published in advance.

APPENDIX B

SB 66 - SMALL CELL WIRELESS DEPLOYMENT - FRAMEWORK of a COMPROMISE AGREEMENT, cont.

While the FCC Small Cell Order preempts state-level legislation, it allows states to enact even stricter preemptions on local governments. It is anticipated that the legitimacy of the FCC order will face numerous legal challenges and may be enjoined from going into effect pending litigation.

Regardless of the FCC order either becoming effective or being enjoined, the provisions of the order establish a federal roadmap that state lawmakers could adapt to any small cell wireless legislation in Georgia. With the FCC order looming, GMA and ACCG successfully negotiated several key areas to maintain control and discretion over the most crucial stages of the small cell wireless deployment process in Georgia statute.

Compromise Framework: With the understanding that local governments need new technology to remain connected and competitive, the overarching principle of the legislation is to encourage small cell wireless deployment through the collocation of new equipment on already-existing infrastructure. This process is more cost-effective for the providers, is the least invasive in the public ROW and is less costly for counties and cities to maintain. Among collocation and other negotiation highlights:

- **Incentivize Collocation to Limit New Poles:** The legislation incentivizes collocation by allowing local governments to charge higher permitting fees for new poles and facilities and offering shorter timeframes for routine collocations. Additionally, applicants must submit certified documentation by a licensed engineer proving the need for any new pole. Local governments have 30 days to act on a collocation permit application and 70 days for a new pole permit. There is a 20-day period following each application after which the wireless provider may notify the local government that it has failed to act. With no local government action, the permit will be deemed approved following that 20 days.
- **Protections for Historic Districts and Residential Areas:** Additionally, cities and counties will maintain discretion over the placement of new poles in key community areas such as historical districts and residential neighborhoods. Local governments have the ability to relocate proposed new pole placement sites within a 100 foot radius to ensure that new poles are not erected in front of residences, and to also require certain design aesthetics to be met through stealth and concealment measures for decorative poles or other facilities.
- **Permit Application Limits Based on Local Government Sizes:** Recognizing that a one-size-fits-all process for processing small cell wireless permits is not always practicable, the legislation takes into consideration the differing size and needs of counties and cities through a tiered process that governs the permitting process over wireless deployment and requires providers to share build-out plans prior to deploying new facilities. To provide counties and cities time to adjust to this new process, applications are limited at first, but increase over time.

APPENDIX B

SB 66 - SMALL CELL WIRELESS DEPLOYMENT - FRAMEWORK of a COMPROMISE AGREEMENT, cont.

- **Reasonable ROW Use Fees, Including Fee Disincentive for New Poles:** Although the FCC places caps on all permitting fees, ACCG and GMA were successful in negotiating an annual ROW usage fee, in addition to a larger fee of \$1,000 for new poles, with an annual 2.5-percent escalator to become effective in 2021.
- **Safe-Harbor in Case FCC Order is Overturned:** The legislation recognizes the FCC order, but considers the possibility that the courts may overturn the decision on rates and fees. As a result, the legislation includes language for a two-year interim period to begin July 1 after any final court decision declaring the FCC order unconstitutional or invalid. For the first-year time period beginning July 1, local governments would be immediately authorized in Georgia's statute to double their rates. After that one-year time period, statutory caps on rates and fees would be repealed. From that point forward, absent any statutory changes enacted by the General Assembly, it would be up to each local jurisdiction to set a fair and reasonable rate for ROW usage and permit fees.
- **Expanded Grounds by which Permits may be Denied:** Unlike last session's legislation, the final legislation allows counties and cities to deny an application if the equipment will interfere with any planned road work or public works projects; fails to comply with laws addressing pedestrian, vehicular traffic and safety requirements; or other laws addressing the occupancy (spacing) or management of the ROW.
- **Timeframes by which Small Cell Equipment Must be Removed:** Cities and counties may require that small cell poles and equipment be removed or relocated, at the provider's expense, if they interfere with local road widening or other public works projects – so long as other utilities are subject to the same timeframe. Local governments must first provide notice and cannot require the equipment be moved any sooner than 45 days.
- **Other Notable Provisions:** The legislation prohibits speculative permitting; requires the removal of abandoned equipment; sets conditions for locating equipment on city or county-owned poles, including "make ready" responsibilities and the removal of equipment for the reconditioning and replacement of poles; prohibits small cell interference with other utilities, traffic control equipment or infrastructure; protects other property owners abutting the ROW; requires that local aesthetic and decorative pole conditions be met; and shields local governments, their officials and employees from legal claims related to the siting or location of wireless equipment.

APPENDIX C



HB 186 CERTIFICATE OF NEED SUMMARY

House Bill 186 revises Certificate of Need (CON) provisions, extends the Rural Hospital Tax Credit, and creates the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination. For CON, HB 186 increases the capital threshold to \$10 million for new, expanded, or relocated clinical facilities and removes the requirement for CON approval for non-clinical space upgrades and renovations. It expands the definition of "health care facility" to include freestanding emergency departments and facilities not located on a hospital's primary campus. "Primary campus" is the building where the bulk of inpatient beds are operating and any facilities within 1,000 yards of it. "Remote hospital location" is a new or acquired facility or organization that is under the administrative and operational control of a main provider. CON application fees for a health care facility in a rural county are waived; however, no new, modified, or converted CON will be issued to an applicant with outstanding payments owed to the state until the payments have been resolved. It allows for the conversion and application of CON without opposition or appeal for a destination cancer hospital to become a "general cancer hospital," which is defined as a destination cancer hospital in existence prior to January 1, 2019 that provides inpatient and outpatient treatment for cancer and co-morbid illnesses; it includes general cancer hospital within the definition and requirements of "hospital" for the purposes of CON. Appeals to a CON application are allowed by parties that have a similar service application in the same batching cycle, offer similar services, or have a primary service area within a 35-mile radius of the proposed facility. Hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) are not required to have a CON for certain imaging and diagnostic equipment under \$4 million, but the ASC physician must be present 75 percent of the time the machine is in use.

Letters of determination are approved within 60 days if the letter is without objection. Objections must be filed within 30 days of the notification to the Department of Community Health (DCH) of the new activity. The legislation requires the Department of Community Health to prepare the state health plan by December 1st of every calendar year and allows the department to seek recommendations from technical advisory committees for the plan. DCH is charged with reviewing and recommending the requirements and standardized reporting of indigent and charity care levels for each type of facility for accurate tracking and enforcement. Additional annual reporting and posting requirements for CON entities include: direct and emergency medical services transfers to a hospital or the emergency department; the number of rooms, beds, procedures and patients with demographics and payer source; patient's county of origin; and operational information, such as procedure types, volume and charges. The department and CON facilities will publish annual reports on their websites, and DCH will also provide copies to certain state leadership. Further disclosure and requirements for hospitals and hospital authority corporations, enforced by DCH and effective July 1, 2020, include: audited financial statements; audited Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990 with Schedule H, and for those hospitals that are not required to submit this form, one will be designed and provided by DCH; state-required annual questionnaire and financial survey; community benefit report; disproportionate share hospital survey; property holdings; ownership or interest in any partnership, corporation, joint venture, trust or captive insurance company; loans, bonds and debt information; ending fund balances of net assets for the hospital and each affiliate; cash reserves; going concerns; the legal organizational chart showing the relationship of the hospital to its parent corporation, subsidiaries, and affiliates; salaries and fringes as reported to the IRS on Form 990; evidence of accreditation; and policies regarding the provisions for financial assistance and debt collection. Information or links to the information must be provided on the hospital's website and updated annually with a minimum two-year archive period.

APPENDIX C**HB 186 CERTIFICATE OF NEED SUMMARY, cont.**

HB 186 states non-profit hospitals may not renew or hold any property for medical use rights. The Rural Hospital Tax Credit is extended to 2024 and requires DCH to create a manual with the criteria to qualify and submit for the credit, as well as to develop and include in the manual a formula to rank the hospitals by greatest financial need. This ranked hospital list must also be distributed by any third-party entity soliciting or managing donors. DCH will prominently post the: manual; eligible hospitals; annual report; total amount received by third-party entities soliciting or managing donors; and a link to the Department of Revenue's donation information on their webpage. The Department of Revenue will also post the list of eligible hospitals by need, as well as the timeline for donations and a monthly update of all designated and undesignated contributions preapproved and received, and the aggregate totals for contributions and available credits. All parties are subject to annual auditing by the state. Authorities that have not operated a hospital for seven or more years, have no outstanding debt, and have a corpus of at least \$20 million may invest up to 30 percent of those funds in mutual funds or other collective investments. Finally, the bill creates the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination with the objective of connecting state resources, functions, reports, and agencies for improved health care service infrastructure. It allows for the creation of an advisory committee, as well as a Georgia Data Access Forum to promote the collection and use of robust data to meet the objectives.

APPENDIX D



HB 307 ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT SUMMARY

HB 307 creates the “Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act”. The intent of the General Assembly is to decrease the burden on businesses that remove abandoned vehicles at the request of law enforcement officers or private property owners.

When an insurance company acquires a motor vehicle after paying out a total loss claim but does not receive the title from the owner within 30 days, it may apply to the Department of Revenue (DOR) for a replacement title.

When law enforcement discovers an unattended vehicle on a highway or public property, they shall perform an unattended vehicle check and attach a completed vehicle check card to the vehicle. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) will promulgate the rules and regulations regarding the unattended vehicle check cards and will provide them to law enforcement agencies free of charge if possible. These cards must only be attached to a vehicle by law enforcement and they must check the criminal justice database with 24 hours to determine if the vehicle has been reported stolen; if it has, they must contact the jurisdiction that filed the stolen vehicle report.

If a vehicle has been left unattended on a highway for more than five days or if the vehicle's abandonment poses an immediate threat to public safety or traffic congestion, law enforcement may have the vehicle removed. Within three days of the removal, the towing company may request from DOR the identification of the vehicle owner. The department has five days to provide the requested information and may charge a fee of \$2 or less.

It is prohibited to remove or tow a vehicle left in a paid private parking lot between midnight and 9 a.m. of the following day; the parking lot owner can impose a penalty of \$25 or less and is not liable for any damage to the abandoned vehicle.

A towing company, repair facility, or salvage dealer must give the vehicle owner up to 30 days after notice is sent to retrieve any personal property from the vehicle. After 30 days, any remaining personal property will be considered abandoned.

Within 15 calendar days of removal, the towing company or salvage dealer must send the owner the notification letter form developed by the Council of Magistrate Court Judges to give notice of the vehicle's location and fees owed. If the identity of the owner cannot be determined, the towing company or salvage dealer must place a notice in the local newspaper or the county courthouse for two consecutive weeks. When a vehicle is left with a repair facility for at least 15 days without payment, the repair facility must send the owner the applicable notification letter form developed by the Council of Magistrate Court Judges to give notice of the vehicle's location and fees owed. The towing company, salvage dealer, or repair facility shall have a lien placed on motor vehicles in their possession in the amount of the noticed recoverable fees.

APPENDIX D

HB 307 ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT SUMMARY, cont.

Between 10 days and six months after compliance with the notice requirements, a towing company, repair facility, or salvage dealer may file an action for a petition to foreclose a lien against the motor vehicle in any magistrate court in the judicial circuit where the vehicle is located. The towing company, repair facility, or salvage dealer must send a copy of the filed claim to any known owners of the vehicle. If the identity of the owner cannot be determined, the towing company, repair facility, or salvage dealer must advertise the notice in the local newspaper or the county courthouse for two consecutive weeks. The vehicle owner may file an answer to the claim within 10 days of receipt by using the included answer form. If no answer is filed within the specified time frame, the towing company, repair facility, or salvage dealer may seek to foreclose the lien through a judgment. If the judgment is granted by the court, the vehicle will be considered abandoned and within five days the court must transmit an order for the disposition of the motor vehicle. If an answer is returned to the court, a trial deciding whether to foreclose on the lien will be held within 10 days.

After a court order, the towing company, repair facility, or salvage dealer is authorized to sell the vehicle to the highest bidder at public sale. The towing company, repair facility, or salvage dealer will use the proceeds from the sale to satisfy the outstanding lien and cover any costs associated with the advertisement and sale of the vehicle. The remaining proceeds will be submitted to the Department of Revenue as unclaimed property.

The purchaser of a motor vehicle at such a public sale will receive a certified copy of the court order authorizing the sale. The purchaser will be able to obtain a clear title from the Department of Revenue by meeting specified requirements.

Once the vehicle proceeds have been turned over to the Department of Revenue as unclaimed property, any person claiming a property interest in the motor vehicle sold and the excess funds from the sale must make a claim within six months of the sale. If no claim is made within six months, the person who sold the motor vehicle can make a claim for the excess funds until one year from the date of the deposit of excess funds.

APPENDIX E**OVERVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2019 AND FY 2020 BUDGETS**

The broad numbers contained in the FY 2019 Amended Budget include a revised revenue estimate of \$26,933,425,042. The FY 2020 revenue estimate is \$27,544,569,129 with an FY 2020 Budget of \$23,724,026,719, a \$522,598,013 increase over the FY 19 Amended Budget.

The Governor's package includes a 2% pay increase for state employees. Listed below are the items within agencies and programs that are of most interest to county governments. Numbers in red are reductions in funding.

Prosecuting Attorney's Council**FY 2020**

- Increase funds for two additional assistant district attorneys to support juvenile courts in Tallapoosa and Alcovy Circuits (\$200k)
- Increase funds for two additional assistant district attorneys to support juvenile courts in Ogeechee and Middle Circuits (\$200k)
- Increase funds for a revised pay scale for state-paid assistant district attorneys (\$955k)
- Increase funds for personal services for recruitment, retention, and career advancement for assistant district attorneys (\$1.4 million)
- Increase for personnel to provide recruitment, retention and Law Enforcement Ladder for POST-certified, state-paid, district attorney investigators (\$184k)
- Increase funds for merit based pay adjustments for district attorneys effective July 1, 2019 (\$1.2 million)

Superior Courts**FY 2020**

- Increase funds for merit-based pay adjustments for superior court judges effective July 1, 2019 (\$1.2 million)
- Increase funds for one additional judgeship in the Griffin Circuit effective July 1, 2019 (\$197k)
- Increase funds for one additional judgeship in the Gwinnett Circuit effective July 1, 2019 (\$197k)
- Provide funds for 5 law clerk positions (\$343k).

APPENDIX E

OVERVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2019 AND FY 2020 BUDGETS, cont.

Department of Agriculture

AFY 2019

- Increase funds for a program manager position (\$32k) and associated operating expenses (\$112k) for the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) initiative per HB 886 passed during the 2018 session
- Increase funds for emergency disaster relief assistance to Georgia farmers in counties impacted by Hurricane Michael (\$20 million)

FY 2020

- Increase funds for a program manager position (\$97k) and associated operating expenses (\$107k) for the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) initiative per HB 886 passed during the 2018 session
- Increase funds for one erosion and sediment control plan reviewer position (\$53k)
- Increase funds for one watershed dam support position (\$56k)
- Payments to the Georgia Development Authority – Eliminate one-time funds for emergency disaster relief assistance to Georgia farmers and for cleanup efforts for Georgia timberland owners in counties impacted by Hurricane Michael per HB 1EX (2018 special session). (\$75 million)
- Bond funds to support the rehabilitation of flood control structures throughout the state through the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (\$1 million)

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)

AFY 2019

- Increase funds for the Georgia Apex Program (GAP) to provide support counselors for mental health services in high schools (\$8.4 million)
- Transfer funds from the Child and Adolescent Addictive Diseases Services program to prevent opioid abuse as recommended by the Commission on Children’s Mental Health (\$800k)

FY 2020

- Adult Addictive Diseases Services – Increase funds for the residential treatment of addictive diseases (\$5 million).
- Increase funds to expand comprehensive treatment, prevention and recovery support services to pregnant and postpartum women living with substance use disorder (\$50k)

APPENDIX E

OVERVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2019 AND FY 2020 BUDGETS, cont.

- Annualize funds for 125 additional slots for the New Options Waiver (NOW) (\$3.7 million)
- Increase funds for 125 additional slots for the New Options Waiver (NOW) Program (\$4.2 million)
- Adult Forensic Services – Increase funds for eight additional forensic community coordinator positions (\$627k)
- Adult Forensic Services – Increase funds for one community integration home (\$433k)
- Adult Forensic Services – Increase funds for five additional forensic evaluator positions (\$782k)
- Adult Mental Health Services – Annualize the cost of behavioral health crisis centers in areas with the greatest need (\$8.3 million)
- Adult Mental Health Services – Increase funds for the state’s behavioral health services (\$10.6 million)
- Adult Mental Health Services – Increase funds for behavioral health crisis bed capacity (\$7.7 million)
- Increase funds for Mercy Care Health Systems to provide primary health care to the indigent (\$250k)
- Adult Mental Health Services – Increase funds for mental health consumers in community settings to comply with the DOJ settlement agreement (\$2.5 million)
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services – Annualize the cost of supported employment and education services for 500 young adults at the rate of \$6,120 per year as recommended by the Commission on Children’s Mental Health (\$1.5 million)
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services – Utilize existing funds to increase telemedicine capacity in rural areas (\$234k)

Department of Community Affairs

AFY 2019

- Provide one-time funds for a study to implement a system to track economic development grants (\$144k)
- Eliminate funds for Compensation of Police and Sheriff’s data analysis operations as SB 366 did not pass (\$100k)
- Payments to OneGeorgia Authority – Provide one-time funds for statewide water planning (\$14 million)
- Payments to Atlanta-regional Transit Link (ATL) Authority – Increase funds for three positions and associated expenses (\$491,361)

APPENDIX E

OVERVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2019 AND FY 2020 BUDGETS, cont.

FY 2020

- Increase funds for the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (\$2,000,000)
- State Community Development Programs - Eliminate funds for Compensation of Police and Sheriff's data analysis operations as SB 366 did not pass **(\$100k)**
- Transfer funds and a downtown development attorney position from the Departmental Administration (DCA) program to the State Community Development Programs program to align position with key activities **(\$130k)**
- Provide one-time funds to assist census participation in hard to count areas **(\$1.5 million)**
- Increase funds for the Blight Removal and Code Enforcement (BRACE) program **(\$300k)**
- Reduce funds for one-time funding for the Cobb support center **(\$75k)**
- Increase funds for the Overcomers House food program **(\$25k)**
- Eliminate funds for one-time funding for Regional Economic Business Assistance grants included in HB1EX (2018 Special Session) **(\$15 million)**
- Increase funds and match with local funds **(\$100k)** to create the Savannah Logistics Technology Corridor **(\$400k)**
- Reduce funds for Regional Economic Business Assistance grants **(\$8 million)**
- Increase funds for the marketing of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame **(\$50k)**
- Payments to Georgia Environmental Finance Authority – Eliminate funds for grants for the Resource Conservation and Development Districts **(\$55k)**
- Payments to OneGeorgia Authority – Remove one-time funds for statewide economic development efforts for local communities impacted by Hurricane Michael per HB 1EX (2018 Special Session) **(\$25 million)**
- Payments to Atlanta-regional Transit Link (ATL) Authority – Provide state funds to establish operating support of ATL Authority operations per HB 930 **(\$2.5 million)**
- Bond funds for water supply projects through Georgia Environmental Finance Authority **(\$9.5 million)**

APPENDIX E

OVERVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2019 AND FY 2020 BUDGETS, cont.

Department of Community Health

AFY 2019

- Increase funds for background checks for owners and employees of long-term care facilities pursuant to SB 406 (2018 Session) (\$495k)
- Increase funds to replace the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) (\$5.7)
- Provide funds for process improvement initiatives to support healthcare facility regulation operations (\$153k)
- Increase funds for an external consultant to review and analyze Medicaid waiver options for the purposes of drafting and preparing waiver policy recommendations for approval from the Governor's office (\$2.6 million)
- Utilize \$25k in existing funds for the design, development and implementation of a caregiver's registry pursuant to the passage of SB 406 (2018 Session)
- Utilize \$591k in existing funds to expand the Medicaid asset verification system to include all categories of assistance
- Health Care Access and Improvement – Increase tobacco settlement funds to serve medically fragile children through the Champions for Children program (\$480k)
- Indigent Care Trust Fund – Increase funds to provide the state match for the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments for private deemed and non-deemed hospitals (\$18.8 million)

Department of Corrections

FY 2020

- Utilize existing funds to provide a 10% contract rate increase for County Correctional Institutions (CIs). (This equals a \$2 increase in the \$20.00 per state inmate per diem)

Department of Driver Services

AFY 2019

- \$906k for DRIVES implementation

APPENDIX E

OVERVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2019 AND FY 2020 BUDGETS, cont.

Department of Education

AFY 2019

- Provide one-time funds for school security grants (\$30,000 per school) (\$69 million)

FY 2020

- Provide funds to adjust the state base salary schedule to increase salaries for certified teachers and certified employees by \$3,000 per year (\$492 million)

Department of Human Services

AFY 2019

- Child Welfare Services – Provide funds to assess the readiness of congregate foster care settings to become accredited qualified residential treatment programs pursuant to the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) (\$504k)
- Utilize \$808k in existing funds to support retention initiatives for eligible relative and foster caregivers

FY 2020

- Child Welfare - Increase funds for the SHINES information technology project to reflect federal policies in FFPSA (\$3 million)
- Child Welfare - Provide funds for a project management team to coordinate statewide implementation of FFPSA (\$439k)
- Child Welfare - Increase funds to replace federal funds to continue child care placement for priority families (\$867k)
- Child Welfare - Provide funds for new quality assurance and ongoing monitoring of child welfare support services providers (\$428k)
- Child Welfare - Provide funds to implement a pilot program for closed foster care cases (\$940k)
- Elder Abuse – Increase funds for 12 adult protective services caseworkers to investigate reports of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of seniors and adults with disabilities (\$957k)

APPENDIX E

OVERVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2019 AND FY 2020 BUDGETS, cont.

- Elder Abuse – Increase funds for five additional public guardianship caseworkers (\$367k)
- Elder Community Living Services – Increase funds for home-delivered meals to reduce the waitlist in each Area Agency on Aging (AAA) (\$946k)
- Elder Community Living Services – Increase funds for 1,000 additional slots for non-Medicaid home and community based services (\$1.9k)
- Elder Support Services – Increase funds to sustain options counseling, program outreach and quality assurance for the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (\$339k)

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

FY 2019

- Provide funds for equipment and 15 vehicles to bring the GBI unit at the Cyber Crime Center to full operation (\$751k)
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – provide funds for maintenance for criminal justice e-filing pilot initiative (\$700k)

FY 2020

- Increase funds for five additional scientists and one lab technician for the chemistry division to address a backlog at the crime lab (\$804k)
- Provide funds for 11 positions to bring the GBI unit at the Cyber Crime Center to full operating capacity (\$1.3 million)
- Remove one-time funds for agent on-boarding associated with Opioid Task Force **(\$1 million)**.
- Provide funds for one prosecutor liaison and two senior investigators to implement a GBI Gang Task Force (\$500k)
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – Increase funds for accountability court expansion (\$4.3 million)
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – Increase funds for one grant specialist position and one fidelity coordinator associated with Accountability Court growth (\$146k)
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – Utilize existing funds and grants to create and maintain a criminal gang and criminal alien database
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – Increase funds to provide state support for one additional domestic violence shelter (\$150k) and six additional sexual assault centers (\$240k)

APPENDIX E

OVERVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2019 AND FY 2020 BUDGETS, cont.

Department of Juvenile Justice

FY 2020

- Increase funds for seven additional public safety trainers (\$370k)
- Increase funds to expand the Career Technical and Agriculture Education Programs at five secure campuses (\$384k)
- Increase funds to annualize services at the Caldwell RYDC (\$1.8 million)

Department of Natural Resources

AFY 2019

- Increased funding to support hazardous waste cleanup activities (Hazardous Waste Trust Fund) (\$5.7 million)

Public Defender's Standards Council

FY 2020

- Increase funds for expenses and lost revenue associated with the expiration of the Fulton County Contract (\$200k)

Department of Public Health/Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission

AFY 2019

- Provide funds to reflect fireworks excise tax collections (\$805,214)
- Increase funds to reflect collections of super speeder and reinstatement fees for the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission (\$5 million)

Department of Public Safety

AFY 2019

- Provide one-time funds for nine vehicles for the creation of the Office of Public Safety Officer Support per HB 703 (\$270k)
- Increase funds to reflect Fiscal Year 2018 fireworks excise tax collection to the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council (\$586k)
- Increase funds for Driver's Education and Training to reflect Fiscal Year 2018 fine collections in accordance with Joshua's Law to the Office of Highway Safety (\$91k)

APPENDIX E

OVERVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2019 AND FY 2020 BUDGETS, cont.

- Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council – Provide one-time funds to purchase equipment and scan documents for storage of certifications and disciplinary files (\$1.2 million)
- Georgia Public Safety Training Center – provide one-time funds for fixtures, furniture and equipment associated with new ranges and training buildings (\$307k)

FY 2020

- Increase funds for 20 additional positions, including 10 K-9 handlers, for the Criminal Interdiction Unit (\$2.5 million)
- Increase funds for one 50-person trooper school (\$2.5 million)
- Provide funds for the creation of the Office of Public Safety Officer Support per HB 703 (\$1.4 million)

Department of Revenue

AFY 2019

- Forestland Protection Grants – Increase funds for the Forestland Protection Act grant reimbursements to meet projected needs (\$36 million)
- Taxpayer Services – Increase funds for contractual services to facilitate Integrated Tax Solution system improvements for online sales tax remittance per HB 61 and implementation of the Georgia tax reform per HB 918 (\$1.8 million)
- Increase funds for revenue processing information technology security upgrades (\$900k)

FY 2020

- Tax Compliance – Increase funds for seven additional positions (\$826k) and contractual services (\$350k) to facilitate Integrated Tax Solution system upgrades for online sales tax remittance per HB 61 and implementation of Georgia tax reform per HB 918
- Increase funds for eight auditors (\$582k) and 12 revenue agents (\$719k) to implement audit and compliance reporting per HB 61
- Tax Policy – provide funds for one specialized tax attorney (\$178k) and one legal specialist (\$121k) per HB 918 and HB 61
- Taxpayer Services – Increase funds for additional position (\$486k) and contractual services (\$1.8 million) to facilitate Integrated Tax Solution system upgrades for online sales tax remittance

APPENDIX E

OVERVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2019 AND FY 2020 BUDGETS, cont.

Office of the Secretary of State

FY 2020 – Bond funds for the replacement and implementation of voting systems statewide (\$150 million)

Department of Transportation

FY 2020

- Increase funds for Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) (\$3 million)
- Increase funds for airport aid (\$1 million)



POLICY STAFF

Economic Development & Transportation: Kathleen Bowen & Larry Ramsey

General County Government: Todd Edwards

Health & Human Services: Debra Nesbit

Natural Resources & the Environment: Kathleen Bowen

Public Safety & the Courts: Debra Nesbit

Revenue & Taxation: Larry Ramsey

Federal: Kathleen Bowen

Kathleen Bowen - kbowen@accg.org

Todd Edwards - tedwards@accg.org

Debra Nesbit - dnesbit@accg.org

Larry Ramsey - lr Ramsey@accg.org

Legislative Director: Clint Mueller - cmueller@accg.org

The *Legislative Update* is published by:

ACCG, Georgia's County Association

191 Peachtree Street, N.E.

Suite 700

Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: 404.522.5022

Fax: 404.525.2477

Web: www.accg.org