

LWVAF -- REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL -- 2015 BILLS PASSED

Bills are **SIGNED** unless otherwise indicated. The governor has 40 days, May 12, to sign or veto legislation. If he fails to act, the bill becomes law anyway. Bills which do not pass this year may be considered next session.

Resolutions reflecting the voice of one chamber need no signature. Joint resolutions generally require governor's signature except for constitutional amendments.

Total bills	150
Resolutions NNS	22
CAs	2
Bills to governor	126
SIGNED	10
VETOED	0
Needing Action	116

CA = constitutional amendment. Requires a 2/3s vote in each chamber and a majority vote in the next general election in November 2016.

NNS = Needs No Signature. Study committee reports due 12-1-15 unless otherwise noted.

TGFS = To Governor for Signature

BUDGET

HB 75 Ralston – 7 The amended FY 15 budget. *Most of the available money went to increases in formula driven services such as school enrollments, both K-12 and post-secondary and Medicaid.*

HB 76 Ralston – 7 **TGFS** The FY 16 budget. *Local boards of education must pay the additional health benefit premium costs of \$156 per month per classified employee. This eats up a large chunk, \$103 million, of the \$280 million appropriated to reduce the austerity cut. Most local boards of education share the costs of the health premium with the employee in a proportion decided by each local board. There is \$175 million in transportation bonds in the general budget of which \$75 million is for public transit. These are now paid for from the Motor Fuel Fund. A good reference for budget analysis is www.gbpi.org, the GA Budget & Policy Institute.*

CHILDREN

SR 7 Unterman – 45 **TO BALLOT** CA to create the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund and to allow the General Assembly to impose additional penalties or fees for various sexual offences against minors.

SB 8 Unterman – 45 **TGFS** Itemizes childhood sexual abuse crimes. Extends age to 25 to file civil actions for damages of such crimes. If SR 7 CA passes, an 8 member commission is established to oversee creation and costs of care and rehabilitation and social services for minors who have been sexually exploited. Recommendations to Governor and General Assembly of changes in state programs, laws, policies, budgets, and standards relating to the care and rehabilitation of such minors. Penalties up to \$2500 may be imposed per conviction of anyone over 18 for such offenses which shall be put in the Sexually Exploited Children Fund. Those under 18 cannot be guilty of these same crimes. Annually, adult entertainment entities shall remit to Revenue Department a fee of \$5000 or 1% of last year's gross revenue, whichever is greater, for deposit into the fund.

HB 17 Spencer – 180 **TGFS** Children who have been sexually abused will have until age 23 to bring civil claims against the abuser or within two years after the victim has reason to know of such abuse which resulted in documented injury. Anyone may file until 1-1-17 if they had previously been barred because of the statute of limitations.

SB 64 Hufstetler – 52 **TGFS** Repeals voluntary acknowledgment of legitimation which is an administrative process and makes it a judicial one in juvenile court which can order DNA testing and other evidence.

15.0.PASSED

SB 138 Miller – 49 **TGFS** State child welfare changes with particular emphasis on foster children. Creates the child abuse registry for convicted child abusers and substantiated cases of child abuse as of 7-1-16. There shall be a single administrator for dental services for Medicaid recipients and PeachCare for Kids participants. Administrator to be selected through a competitive bidding process and cannot outsource, subcontract, or assign any rights or obligations to the contract with Department of Community Health. *Governor's proposal. Very extensive.*

HB 268 Ballinger – 23 **TGFS** When a mandated report has been made to a designated person in an entity required to report suspected child abuse, the designated person cannot change the report made by the individual. Allows oral and electronic reporting. *Mandated reporting by employees and volunteers is done in schools, day care, health care facilities, sports leagues, community groups and other places where children congregate.*

HB 366 Strickland – 111 **TGFS** Minors age 16 and 17 no longer need work permits. Minors age 12 through 15 must have a work permit to be employed, which is evidenced by a written document or ID card provided by the issuing entity. Minor must produce proof of age with a birth certificate or birth registration card, and an employer provided job description. Information provided to qualify for the work permit is to remain confidential, unless the minor is an actor or performer. Schools are often the issuing entity. Home schools are added as issuing entities.

HR 474 Abrams – 89 **NNS** Creates the 5-member House Study Committee on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship Care to review government policies and services and programs from relevant interest groups and advocacy organizations and best practices from other states. *This is a state-wide condition, not just urban. There are over 100,000 grandparents in GA raising their grandchildren and more kids being raised by other relatives. State needs to align service delivery for these caregivers and expand oversight.*

SR 487 Unterman - 45 **NNS** Creates the 4 member Senate Preventing Youth Substance Use Disorders Study Committee.

HB 568 Dempsey – 13 **TGFS** Department of Human Services may require DNA testing if person receiving social services alleges that paternity is for another person not the previously established father. No test shall be done if child is adopted or conceived through artificial insemination. DHS will pay the costs if test proved alleged father is the father, else the allegor will pay.

HR 641 Dempsey – 13 **NNS** Creates a 5 member House Study Committee on Children's Mental Health to study the available resources for such children and identify possible solutions or improvement.

DRIVERS LAWS, TRANSPORTATION

SB 4 Gooch – 51 **TGFS** Urban transportation plans for counties served by MARTA, which are Fulton, DeKalb, and Clayton. These plans are to include transit facilities and improvements, sidewalks, streetscapes, trails, and bicycle facilities in addition to the streets, utilities, parks, and playgrounds already authorized. A surface transportation project means public improvement planned to impact 10,000 acres or more and at least 10 transit miles including any related facilities, parks, trails, and other authorized facilities. Public private partnerships are authorized for up to 50 years.

HB 48 Coleman – 97 **TGFS** Any peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical personnel who sustains a major injury while on the job is eligible for a special license plate. A disabled veteran honorably discharged may have a free vehicle license. In the event of death, such free plates go to the unmarried spouse or minor child. Veterans licensing a motorcycle are entitled to a distinctive plate. Special Gold Star license plates honoring family members of military personnel killed in action may be extended to the surviving spouse of such service member's sibling.

SB 76 Jackson – 24 **TGFS** Motorcycle Mobility Safety Act. If a traffic control device or signal is inoperative because of the lightweight design of a motorcycle or bicycle, and the driver has been stopped and there is no vehicle within 500 feet moving toward this intersection, the signal may be treated as a stop sign. *GA has over 100,000 motorcyclists. This*

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proposal could increase insurance premiums and accidents, especially when left hand turns are being made on a red light. Drivers must stop at crosswalks when pedestrian-activated rectangular rapid flash beacons are ON. Beacons not to be activated without using the crosswalk to cross the street.

HB 106 Roberts – 155 TGFS Counties may call a referendum for a TSPLOST for up to 1% for transportation projects for up to 10 years. Counties which are served by GRTA, GA Regional Transit Authority, may do so in 2016. Other counties, particularly those with a current TSPLOST, must wait until 2017. Each county may agree with another county on a common project list and fund it with a TSPLOST. The referendum can be held on any date allowed for SPLOSTs, i.e. March and November. ***Counties may pass such a proposal when the money stays within their boundaries. A partial 1% may be positive with short project lists. Counties can merge together for a regional project using intergovernmental agreements; or they could create another project list within the regions defined for the 2012 TSPLOST referenda which lost in 9 out of 12 regions. This same language is also in HB 170.***

HB 118 Tanner – 9 TGFS Applicants for commercial driver's license or driving permit are committing an unlawful act for making false statements or concealing a material fact or committing a fraud during the examination. Third party providers of the Department of Drivers Services testing must have and maintain a surety bond in an amount set by the department. Certification of examiners must include a national criminal history background check and pass a training course. Persons who train examiners cannot administer the tests. Commercial drivers licenses are issued to those who first have a driving permit after which they have 180 days to get their license. Conviction of traffic offenses will require no driving commercially for either 60 days or 1 year depending on the severity of the offense. Use of wireless phones banned except for calling 911, or if a public utility employee or contractor or public safety personnel. ***A departmental bill to align with the federal Motor Safety Act.***

HB 123 Yates – 73 TGFS Every motor vehicle with a load on or pulling a trailer shall attach it securely to prevent dropping or shifting it onto the roadway and creating a safety hazard. Failure to do so is a misdemeanor.

SB 125 Beach – 21 TGFS Authorizes tolls for state or local road projects and improvements to manage traffic. Includes managed lanes, signage, barriers or gates. Establishes how managed lanes are to be used and paid for by drivers.

HB 147 Powell – 32 TGFS Purchasers of new passenger motor vehicles within the 16 counties that require federal emissions inspection may initially register the car for 2 years for a fee of \$40 and thereafter annually. Not available if prestige or special license plates are chosen. ***Saves a blank check.***

HB 170 Roberts – 155 TGFS Transportation Funding Act of 2015. Besides roads and bridges, motor fuel taxes may be used for public transit, rail, buses, airports, seaports and all associated infrastructure and services to access these transportation facilities. Removes the state sales tax on motor fuel. This will remove \$180 million from the general fund which the fourth penny contributed. Raises excise tax to 26 cents/gallon on gasoline, up from 7.5 cents, and 29 cents/gallon on diesel fuel, both to be adjusted for inflation annually until 2018. Alternative fuel vehicles, fueled by electricity, natural gas, or propane, but no hybrids, are assessed an annual fee of \$200 or \$300 if for commercial use and issued distinctive license plates allowing them to travel in lanes designated. Fees of either \$50 or \$100 per year for trucks depending on weight. If truck fueled by compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas, the fees do not apply. A hotel-motel tax of \$5/night is levied on stays of 30 days or less. Fees are to be indexed to the Consumer Price Index effective 1-1-16. Repealed are tax credits for electric vehicles and alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles and the jet fuel sales tax exemption for airlines flying out of Atlanta. The general fund will appropriate annually about \$250 million to pay off debt owed by DOT. All local sales taxes remain at 1% each and taxing of motor fuel will continue up to \$3 per gallon. No tax is levied for amounts above that. Counties which levy a MARTA tax or are served by GRTA may levy up to 1% for transportation projects or join with adjacent counties for projects for up to 10 years. Counties in the regions that passed a TSPLOST tax in 2012 may do the same after 2017. Annually, Department of Transportation to present their ten-year comprehensive transportation plan to the House and Senate Transportation committees for approval and to make budget recommendations to Appropriations. Recreates the Special Joint Committee on GA Revenue Structure of legislators with the challenge to present to the legislature a tax reform plan in 2016. Dissolved 7-1- 2016. Establishes priorities for state funding as education, transportation, and health care.

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HB 174 Jones – 62 **TGFS** Urban redevelopment areas renovate ‘pockets of blight’, not ‘slums’. Effective 1-1-16.

HB 190 Golick – 40 **TGFS** Specifies liability insurance coverage up to \$1 million for vehicles and drivers in a transportation network such as Uber. Driver’s personal insurance may or may not cover the vehicle when used in a transportation network. If so used, any lienholder must be notified of such use. Effective 1-1-16.

HB 206 Harrell – 106 **TGFS** To pass sanitation vehicles flashing yellow, amber or red lights, one must move over one lane, or if that is not feasible, slow to 10 mph under the posted speed limit or 5 mph, whichever is more, until passed. Fine can be up to \$500. *Sanitation workers are injured more than most other public employees.*

HB 225 Powell – 32 **TGFS** Drivers of taxis and all other for-hire vehicles must have for-hire license endorsements. Establishes operating rules for all types of for-hire transportation companies. Cities and counties cannot impose further licensing requirements. May get a master license or pay sales taxes on fares which are distributed to local governing authorities as a LOST or SPLOST.

HB 325 Hitchens – 161 **TGFS** Requires seat belts to be used by all passengers under age 18 in vans which carry 15 or more passengers effective 7-1-15. The seatbelt requirement shall not apply if vehicle designed to carry between 11 and 15 passengers was manufactured before 7-1-15. *Currently, vehicles which are required to be equipped with seat belts are those carrying up to 10 passengers. Most passengers of 15 passenger vans are children – private school vans, church vans, day care vans, etc. Public schools cannot use 15 passenger vans because of federal law.*

HB 386 Nimmer – 178 **TGFS** Repeals the requirement for the Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation.

HB 393 Martin – 49 **TGFS** Tesla may sell unlimited number of new vehicles directly to consumers from five locations in GA, as can any other manufacturer who sells electric cars and has never sold through dealerships.

HB 477 Jones – 47 **TGFS** Property formerly acquired for public road purposes which is to be abandoned and is now within a subdivision may allow for notification to the subdivision property owners’ association rather than the individual adjoining property owners. Any city formed after April 2005 shall assume ownership of county rights of way located therein unless otherwise agreed to by a joint resolution between the county and the new city.

EDUCATION

SB 2 Tippins – 37 **TGFS** High school students who are dual enrolled in a HOPE eligible institution and who complete postsecondary work may be awarded a high school diploma by the local board of education if student has 2 units each of English-Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and one health and physical education course, earns an associate’s degree or technical college diploma and complete all required prerequisites for an industry certification or license in a field of critical need. *This is probably a very self-motivated and accomplished student.*

HB 62 Tanner – 9 **TGFS** The special education voucher requirement for students to be enrolled for 1 year in a public school is waived for those whose parent is in the military on active duty stationed in Georgia within the previous year.

HB 85 Harrell – 106 Selling distilled alcohol within 200 yards of any school is banned; beer and wine can be sold within 100 yards in a grocery store of at least 10,000 sq. ft. Includes K-12 and college campuses.

SB 89 Albers – 56 **TGFS** All instructional materials purchased or licensed by a local board of education must be in electronic format. Local boards are encouraged to provide electronic devices to each student for use in accessing such materials by 2020. *Costs and security of devices are major issues for those who have already tried providing devices for students.* Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act. DOE shall name a Corporate Information Officers, CIO. DOE to have policy and operating procedures to assure that individual student data is not disclosed to unqualified recipients or privacy is not breached. CIO to investigate issues of compliance with student data protection by DOE and LBOEs. Student data elements are to be publicly available. Content data

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to be available to student and parents, local school or district personnel and authorized contractors thereof, authorized staff and contractors of DOE. No student identifiable data can be published, only aggregate data. Transfer of student identifiable data can be done only under circumstances to serve the student such as transferring to another school, enrolling in post-secondary programs, for federal programs for the student, at student request. CIO to develop a detailed security plan, ensure compliance with the federal Family Education Records & Privacy Act, FERPA. CIO to report annually to governor and General Assembly changes to data elements, disclosures of student data approved, audit results. Cannot collect political affiliation, voting history, income level, religious affiliation unless required by law. Violations reported by student or parent to CIO with no right of appeal. ***Most of this proposal is long overdue. Violations, however, should be reported to an entity not involved with the rule making or operational oversight of the data security.***

HB 91 Coleman – 97 Eliminates the GA High School Graduation test as a graduation requirement regardless of when the student entered high school in the ninth grade. It is replaced with end of course tests designated by the state Board of Education. LBOE must advertise annually for three years that the diplomas are available. ***Currently, the SBOE has phased out this test, but it remains a requirement for students who entered high school before July 2011 and who have not yet earned a diploma. Their only option is to get a SBOE waiver. This significantly reduces the SBOE waivers which number in the thousands per year. Date of graduation will be either the date originally scheduled for graduation or the current date, at LBOE option.***

HR 103 Setzler – 35 **TGFS** Georgia’s Day of Coding is December 10, part of the Week of Coding. Encourages schools, students, parents, and community to participate in Coding Week to expose students to information technology and careers in computer programming. Coding teaches computational skills and critical thinking. ***GA has 3000 job openings for informational technology professionals and jobs are growing three times faster than students entering the field.***

HB 131 Dickerson – 113 **TGFS** Local boards of education must include cyberbullying in their local policies prohibiting bullying. Definition of electronic information is that in federal law. Local schools will have oversight of student cyberbullying originating from non-school equipment if directed at other students or school personnel and it has a ‘high likelihood’ of disrupting the school or threatening their safety.

SB 132 Dugan – 30 **TGFS** The dual enrollment program called ‘Move On When Ready’ will now accept any high school student if all criteria for college admission are met. Information must be given to grade 8 public students when the Individual Graduation Plan is being developed. There shall be no tuition fee, book fee, or other fees for these students. Course work earns both high school credit and post-secondary credit. Does not require a prior year enrolled in a high school. Now open to home schooled students. Overseen by the GA Student Finance Commission.

SB 133 Millar – 49 The Opportunity School District will oversee failing schools throughout the state. Effective in 2017-18. A superintendent will be appointed by and accountable to the governor and approved by the Senate. Schools with three consecutive years of an F rating by the Office of Student Achievement based on the Department of Education Accountability System are eligible for takeover and chosen solely at the superintendent’s discretion after a public hearing in the community. The superintendent can unilaterally waive State Board of Education rules. OSD can assume control of up to 20 schools per year. Intervention may take the form of direct OSD management, shared governance of OSD and the local board of education, reconstitution of the school as a state charter school, or closure. There will be a governing board in each school appointed by the superintendent from nominations by the local General Assembly delegation, members must be US citizens and residents of GA, but need not have a child in the school or live in the community. OSD may take the facility from the local school district and require the local school district to pay for major repairs required by the OSD superintendent. Each school shall be with OSD for 5 consecutive years, funded with the federal, state and local funds per student. However, a rating above F for three consecutive years will allow it to exit OSD. In no instance shall a school remain in OSD for longer than 10 years. OSD may use 3% of each student’s state, federal, and local allotment funding for overhead and administration. Enabling legislation for SR 287. ***Currently, there are 146 schools which meet the criteria for takeover. The governor’s proposal. LWV has great concerns about this bill. One person [with the governor, two] will have authority to take assets and funds from local taxpayers with no accountability back to them. There is no accountability for OSD if a school cannot be remediated; so it could go back to the school district in worse shape than***

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when it went in. The local board of education loses use of its building for the duration of the school, and if it is closed by OSD, for three additional years. The local elected board of education MUST turn over funds to this school district and has NO ability to question, audit, or in any way dictate how those funds are spent. There is NO appeal for students, parents, or local school board. There are no open meetings for input on the development of rules and regulations. There is no requirement for auditing. And this governor, and probably the first superintendent, will be LONG gone by the time any concerns can be addressed.

SB 156 Tippins – 37 **TGFS** Authorizes the State Charter School Commission to form the State Charter School Foundation.

SB 164 Jones – 10 **TGFS** In high need schools, urges the implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support, PBIS, and Response To Intervention, RTI. *This program is research based and already funded in the budget, \$500,000.*

HB 164 Martin – 49 **TGFS** Extends until July 1, 2017, currently July 1, 2015, the suspension of the requirement for certificated employees to get professional learning to renew their certification. *Professional Standards Commission has asked for this. The new date lines up with changes in the certification processes.*

HB 177 Wilkerson – 38 **TGFS** School personnel required to report suspected child abuse to DFCS must receive a receipt notice within 4 hours and another notice within 5 days of completion of the investigation indicating whether child abuse was or was not confirmed.

HB 198 Dempsey – 13 **TGFS** All K-12 certified staff members must have an annual training on suicide prevention. *Suicide is the second leading cause of death in GA among ages 12-18.*

HB 209 Cantrell - 22 **TGFS** LBOE shall provide notification to each parent of a special needs student at the initial IEP meeting and annually regarding availability of the special needs voucher. *Eligibility for this voucher requires an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which takes much effort to develop.*

SR 287 Miller – 49 **TO BALLOT** CA to allow the General Assembly to authorize the establishment of an Opportunity School District to provide for state intervention for failing school. The question on the ballot is more obtuse: “Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing public schools in order to improve student performance?” The enabling legislation is SB 133. *The governor’s proposal. The state already is authorized and does intervene in failing schools. The need for this amendment is that the intervention currently employed is not a state-wide school district with unlimited powers. DOE currently uses a contract with the school district in which failing schools are located and should the school district balk, funds can be withheld.*

HR 303 Buckner – 137 **NNS** Urges the SBOE to develop and implement comprehensive civics education curricula.

HB 313 Dickey – 140 **TGFS** Every state employee, but not those of local school boards, can apply for 8 hours of paid leave to promote education in the state with student achievement and academic support activities. Prohibited are activities for political purposes or agendas. *This is not restricted to public education.*

HB 372 Coomer – 14 Local governments cannot require charter schools to get any additional licenses to open, such as a business license, professional license, or occupational tax certificate, if the school has passed state facility inspections and received a certificate of occupancy. Charter Schools shall give priority in an enrollment lottery to educationally disadvantaged students, economically disadvantaged, neglected, delinquent or homeless students. *Educationally disadvantaged students are those with special education needs, from poor families, English is not their first language.*

HB 401 Efstrotation – 104 **TGFS** Department of Early Care And Learning, DECAL, may solicit and accept donations, grants, contributions. Defines a support center as one which solicits and provides personnel, curriculum, etc., to early care providers but does not care directly for children. Support Centers must be annually renewed by DECAL. May provide background checks on personnel provided to potential employers. Support center employees must be background checked

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every 5 years. Post-secondary students working at any child care facility as part of their education must also pass a criminal background check. *Bill is extensive.*

HB 502 Dudgeon – 25 **TGFS** Education law cleanup. Repeals outdated sections and updates other sections to comply with current practice. Includes courses in American Founding Philosophy and Celebrate Freedom Week, as options, not mandates.

HB 551 Brockway – 102 **TGFS** Local boards of education may provide for payroll deductions for purchases of consumer products and offerings through an employee purchase program facilitated by and through the Department of Administrative Services. *Computer purchases at school prices through DOAS already in law. This bill allows payment from future earnings.*

SR 564 Black – 8 **NNS** Creates the 5 member Senate Study Committee on School Construction to look at architect fees, options for financing, costs in various school systems on a per square foot basis and on an FTE basis. *Several studies on this subject have been done in the recent past. If the committee focuses on state costs, the variances are quite narrow. The choices made by local school systems cause wider variances and land costs in different places can alone make the same building far more expensive here than there.*

HR 620 Drenner - 85 **NNS** Urges LBOEs to make students aware of renewable energy by making the building more energy efficient through the lighting system and controls, the mechanical systems such as HVAC and water heating equipment, and the building envelope including walls, floor, and roof.

HR 765 Chandler -- 105 **NNS** Creates the 6 member House Study Committee on School Counseling and the Role of School Counselors.

GOVERNMENT - GENERAL

SB 59 Hill – 6 **TGFS** Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act. The state or any local government or school district with a qualifying project which meets a public purpose or need (excludes electrical energy generation, communication services, cable and video services, and water resources) may enter into a partnership with a private entity to effect the project over several years. The annual cost shall be treated as bond indebtedness is treated for purposes of any funding cap.

SB 63 Hill – 6 **TGFS** Licensed brewpubs and licensed malt beverage manufacturers may sell malt beverages for either on or off-premise consumption. Quantities for off-premises consumption limited to 72 ounces. On-premise consumption limited to 32 ounces. Prices shall be consistent with those in the same county and purchases shall be taxable. Distillers may offer tours for pay or not and provide a ‘souvenir’ of 750 ml of distilled spirits. No alcoholic beverages may be sold on the premises. *Currently, brewpubs can sell only on-premises and malt beverage brewers can only sell for off-premise consumption.*

HB 70 Hugely – 136 **TGFS** Designates the white tailed deer as Georgia’s official state mammal. *A first grade Boy Scout troop recommended the gray fox after learning that GA is one of three states without a state mammal. After inviting the Commission of Natural Resources to speak with them, their recommendation changed to the white tailed deer, which lives in all parts of the state.*

HB 86 Benton – 31 **TGFS** Transfers the Division of Aging Services from the Department of Human Services to the GA Adult & Aging Services Agency. Creates a board for the Adult & Aging Services Agency who shall select an executive director. All functions and personnel remain the same.

HB 95 Tanner – 9 **TGFS** Expands the options for investing the funds in the local government investment pool. The state treasurer may place the funds in a separate trust fund administered by the treasurer under policies developed by the State Depository Board.

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SB 95 Williams – 27 **TGFS** Real estate brokers may deposit funds into a federally insured account. *Current law requires it to be a checking account.*

HB 99 Lumsden – 12 **TGFS** When joint tenants with right of survivorship divorce or have their marriage annulled, joint tenancy with right of survivorship is usually disposed of in the final order of divorce or annulment. If not and either party files an affidavit in the county where the property is located, attaching a divorce or annulment final decree, they become tenants in common owners of the property.

SB 103 Jackson – 2 Allows local governments to decide if alcohol may be served on one Sunday during the year at their annual festival, such as a St. Patrick's Day celebration, Cherry Blossom Festival, Big Pig Jig, Oktoberfest, etc. *Bill was fast tracked to allow Savannah to sell alcohol on Sunday before St. Patrick's Day.*

SB 148 Kennedy – 18 **TGFS** The Attorney General will assume all oversight and responsibility for the Office of Consumer Affairs. *Office of Consumer Affairs is being transferred from the governor's office to the Attorney General, like 47 other states. Since the Office does so many investigations which require notices and sometimes court time, it was thought it should be supervised by the legal eagles. Governor's bill.*

HB 180 Kidd – 145 **TGFS** The eligibility for admission to the GA War Veterans Nursing Home shall be a resident for the last 2 years or a current resident for 5 years in the last 15 years. *Currently, applicants must be a GA resident for the most recent 5 years.*

HB 192 Powell – 32 **TGFS** State and local governments may provide purchase cards, p-cards, to their officials if there is a policy governing its use and misuse and the receiving official signs off on the rules and limits established therein for spending. No local elected official may be issued a p-card after 1-1-16 unless the local government has adopted such a policy and designated the officials so authorized

SB 203 Hill – 6 **TGFS** Establishes the 6 member World War I Centennial Commission to plan, develop and execute programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of WWI and Georgia's role in it, to encourage private organizations and local governments to organize and participate, and to serve as a clearing house for the collection and dissemination of information about events and plans in GA for the WWI centennial. No state moneys are to be spent.

HB 217 Maxwell – 17 **TGFS** Public retirement systems may invest in mutual funds and other collective funds and trusts. *They are already doing it, especially the smaller retirement funds because they do not have the investment personnel of the larger funds. This makes it legal.*

HB 245 Dollar – 45 **TGFS** Condominium special assessments are limited to 1/6 of the annual common expense assessment for that unit. *Currently, the maximum is \$200 per year.*

HB 278 Clark – 98 **TGFS** The administration and oversight of the Public Employee Hazardous Chemical Protection and Right to Know Act of 1988 is transferred to the State Fire Commissioner, currently under the Department of Labor.

HR 395 Greene – 151 **TGFS** Creates the Joint Georgia-Alabama Study Committee to study with counterparts in Alabama issues of joint interest. Members are 10 legislators, 5 from each chamber, whose districts touch the Georgia-Alabama border. Report due 12-1-16.

GOVERNMENT – COURTS AND CRIMES

SB 62 Harper - 7 **TGFS** Probate courts will have concurrent jurisdiction on hunting and game litigation with superior courts.

HB 71 Tanner – 9 **TGFS** Provisions of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles are modified to provide input and transparency to granting a pardon or commutation of a death sentence. Victims, prosecuting attorneys, family members to receive additional consideration.

15.0.PASSED

HB 72 Willard – 51 **TGFS** Expands and clarifies the protections of disabled adults and older persons, over age 65. Good Samaritan protection is provided to anyone rescuing an incapacitated person from a locked motor vehicle.

SB 72 Mullins – 53 **TGFS** Tanja's Law. Harming a police dog, horse, or any other animal trained to support police, fire, or state fire marshal will be a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature with penalty of up to 12 months in jail and/or \$5000 fine. If death occurs, fine could be up to \$20,000 plus cost of replacement of the trained animal. GBI labs will perform forensic services. Incest is broadened to include grandparent with grandchild of the whole or half blood, aunt or uncle with niece or nephew of the whole or half blood. Harassing phone calls are expanded to include any form of electronic communications. *Incest and harassing phone calls seem unrelated to the underlying bill, but they fall in the same code section and therefore are probably germane.*

SB 94 Bethel – 54 **TGFS** Police entities must have a written policy for identifying suspects in a line-up, show-up, or other witness identification methods. The policy must be available to the public. Effective 7-1-16. Authorizes body cameras on peace officers but shields the information gained thereby if the images are taken in a non-public area, a private place. Access to these images in a private place is restricted to legal representation, heirs, parties to a civil or criminal case. *Prevents nose neighbors from finding out why the cops came to the house next door, etc.*

SB 99 Kennedy – 18 **TGFS** In a criminal case, if a judge expresses an opinion during the trial, an objection must be made immediately and either the judge can make a curative statement to the jury or declare a mistrial. Else the verdict may be reversed upon appeal or a new trial granted by the appellate court. *Information stated that judicial resources may be saved by not having trials overturned and/or defendants set free because the trial judge was not aware of a remark that might be cause for same.*

SR 119 James – 35 **NNS** Encourages law enforcement agencies to equip peace officers with body cameras who routinely conduct traffic stops or respond to emergency dispatch calls.

HB 153 Weldon – 3 **TGFS** Any person damaged by the unlicensed practice of law is entitled to file a civil action to recover damages, reasonable attorney fees, and expenses of litigation.

HB 279 Powell – 171 **TGFS** The state supported salaries of judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, superior courts, public defenders and district attorneys are increased. The Supreme Court justices will receive nearly \$180,000 per year, Court of Appeal judges to get \$178,000/yr. Caps local supplements at \$50,000/year. Creates the Judicial Compensation Commission to review all judicial pay. Judges get a daily expense allowance for official business in Atlanta as do GA legislators if living more than 50 miles from Atlanta.

HB 310 Powell – 32 **TGFS** Creates the Department of Community Supervision and its board and Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Reentry. Transfers powers, duties, and functions for those on parole and probation from the Department of Corrections, State Board of Pardons and Paroles, Department of Juvenile Justice, County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council. *Governor's proposal.*

GOVERNMENT – COUNTIES AND CITIES

HB 89 Bruce – 61 **TGFS** Extends until 7-1-15 for city or county ordinances to be adopted and reported to Department of Community Affairs relating to manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to distribute controlled substances or marijuana in, on, or within drug-free commercial zones.

HB 110 Roberts – 155 **TGFS** Consumer fireworks may be used and sold in GA to those 18 and over. Licensing of vendors by Safety Fire Commissioner. Two fireworks outlets per licensed distributor per county. Locate any fireworks stand within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant. Fireworks cannot be transported on the interstates. Excludes fireworks from school zones and school buses. Imposes a 5% excise fee/tax on each item sold. *Consumer fireworks are any small fireworks devices containing restricted amounts of pyrotechnic composition designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects of combustion and manufactured to the standards defined in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1124, 2006 edition.*

15.0.PASSED

HB 432 Raffensperger – 50 **TGFS** Local acts which deannex property from one city and annex it to another does not create a prohibited unincorporated island.

GOVERNMENT - EMPLOYMENT

SB 69 Hill – 32 **TGFS** Reaffirms that members of the State Defense Force have the same rights, privileges, and immunities as those of the GA National Guard.

SB 88 Jones – 25 **TGFS** Wages can be paid with a debit card if the employee accepts that option. If not, wages will be paid by check or direct deposit. *Another option for employees who do not have a checking account.*

HB 117 Hamilton – 24 **TGFS** Employer experience to be used to receive unemployment and reconcile overpayments by Department of Labor is further defined. DOL may require electronic application for benefits.

HB 443 Dempsey – 13 **TGFS** Allows preferential hiring, promoting, or retention to veterans if a written policy exists.

GOVERNMENT – ENVIRONMENT

HB 57 Dudgeon – 25 **TGFS** Solar Power Free Market Financing Act of 2015. Solar technology on residences and businesses may be financed by private sources. Installation of solar technology on private property and the excess generated is sold to the power company are not to be treated as an electricity service provider. *This bill is extensive and should be consulted by those considering solar installations.*

SB 101 Watson – 1 **TGFS** A buffer of 25 feet shall be maintained in coastal marshlands while building, with no disturbance.

HB 160 Dunahoo – 30 **TGFS** Allows trapping of raccoons, currently banned in Carroll, Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Barrow, Jackson, Madison, & Elbert counties and areas north. *And should a person, child or adult, get caught in one of these traps, who pays the medical bills? The proponents say this will arrest the spread of rabies. Squirrels, fox, and other animals get rabies, too.*

HR 601 Smith – 70 **NNS** Creates the 5 member House Study Committee on Saltwater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers.

GUNS

HB 492 Jasperse – 11 **TGFS** Administrative updates on issuing and renewing gun carry licenses and permits. Clarification of aspects of last year's gun bills. Student acts involving a firearm, machine gun, or dangerous weapon or any weapon together with an assault are to be reported to police. Others are to be handled within the school district.

HEALTH

HB 1 Peake – 141 **Marijuana, cannabis, use is permitted if medically prescribed for 8 diseases - cancer, seizures, Crohn's disease, Lou Gehrig's disease, mitochondrial disease, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, and sickle cell. Allowable forms include liquid, pills, injections or other delivery systems but not smoking. Citizens are protected from prosecution in GA who possess 20 ounces or less which contains 5% or less of THC and have a doctor's prescription. Patients must have a prescription from a doctor who has been treating them, register with the state and have an ID card. Includes a university study to determine dosages and effectiveness. Creates the GA Commission on Medical Cannabis of 17 members to study minors with medication-resistant epilepsies. Employers are held harmless if employees are prescribed medical cannabis.**

SR 16 Unterman – 45 **NNS** Reaffirms the shared commitment of the United States and the United Kingdom to end sexual violence globally and supports the goals and ideals of the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.

15.0.PASSED

SB 51 Burke – 11 **TGFS** Pharmacist may substitute therapeutically equivalent biological products, just as they can substitute generic for brand named drugs.

SB 53 Kirk – 13 Until June 30, 2018, a licensed professional counselor may transport a person to a hospital for mental health evaluation. *This authority currently sunsets in March of 2015.*

SB 109 Orrock – 36 **TGFS** When a patient has an incurable or irreversible condition, health care providers may act as directed in a Physician Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment, POLST, personally executed by the patient and the attending physician which directs providers regarding end of life care. No liability shall occur if death ensues and health care personnel act in good faith and according to the patient's stated wishes. POLST forms available from Department of Public Health.

SB 111 Stone – 23 **TGFS** 'Continuing Care at Home' is furnishing service at home according to an agreement which includes nursing care, assisted living care or personal care, home services, and may also include an obligation of lodging or food. *Currently, care had to be provided in a non-home facility.*

SR 115 Unterman – 45 **NNS** February 6, 2015, is designated as the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Day. Heart disease is the number one killer of women, of which 80% can be prevented-

SR 116 Unterman – 45 **NNS** February 25, 2015 is Lupus Awareness Day. Approximately 55,000 Georgians are currently living with lupus which can affect any part of the body. African Americans, Hispanics-Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are 2 to 3 times more likely to develop lupus.

SB 126 Hufstetler – 52 **TGFS** Authorized entities may each get a prescription for auto-injectable epinephrine, an epy pen, to have on hand if a client or customer needs it to combat an allergic response. Entities are authorized by the Department of Public Health as places where allergens may be present causing anaphylaxis, such as recreational camps, colleges and universities, day care facilities, youth sports leagues, amusement parks, restaurants, places of employment, sports arenas. *This is the same provision K-12 schools currently have.* Albuterol sulfate, which is used in a nebulizer or compressor device or inhaler for respiratory distress, asthma, may be prescribed for a school by a doctor or other authorized licensed health practitioner, and pharmacists may fill the prescription. School personnel shall be trained to recognize respiratory distress and can provide the albuterol sulfate to the student without a prescription. The drug may be stockpiled at the school. SBOE and DPH to adopt regulations and LBOEs to adopt a policy for use and provide training. *In Georgia, 298,000 children have asthma and 10 die each year.*

HB 183 Knight – 130 **TGFS** Private home care providers to include licensed independent contractors which must be supervised by an RN or doctor. *Currently, independent contractors are not required to be licensed.*

HB 211 Broadrick – 4 **TGFS** The annual update of controlled substances. Most drugs added are various compounds of synthetic marijuana.

HB 232 Carter – 175 **TGFS** State Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers shall have one member not in the business. The chair and vice chair shall be licensed hearing aid specialists. Dispenser license applicants must have a criminal records check and after 1-1-16, 20 hours of continuing education up from 14 hours now required.

SR 346 Unterman – 45 **NNS** Skin Cancer Awareness Day at the Capitol is March 2, 2015. Skin cancers account for more than 50% of all cancers.

HB 385 Nimmer – 178 **TGFS** The annual cost adjustment for copying and mailing medical records would be transferred to the Department of Community Health. *Currently, it is calculated by the Office of Planning and Budget.*

HB 409 Taylor – 173 **TGFS** Coverage for treatment of burns for skin substitutes utilizing cryopreserved cadaver derived skin tissue shall not be limited or excluded because it is experimental or investigational medical treatment.

15.0.PASSED

HB 429 Stephens – 164 **TGFS** Health benefit plans shall not restrict prescribed treatment for terminal conditions, defined as expectation of death within 24 months. Requires insurance coverage for autism related disorders for children under the age of 6 and up to \$30,000/year unless insurance provided by an employer with 10 or fewer employees. Mandate will be review annually. If rates increase more than 1% due to this requirement, revisitation will result. If a comprehensive state plan for autism is adopted, this provision is repealed.

HB 436 Clark – 101 **TGFS** Pregnant women shall be offered HIV and syphilis tests in the third trimester. She may refuse. *Testing before birth allows treatment before delivery and possibly prevents the HIV or syphilis from infecting the baby.*

HB 504 Cooper – 43 **TGFS** Vaccinations against meningococcal disease of college students residing in campus housing are required within the last 5 years of admittance. The contract between physicians and pharmacies and licensed registered nurses to provide influence vaccinations is updated to include pneumococcal disease, shingles, and meningitis.

HB 505 Cooper – 43 **TGFS** Physical therapists may treat patients for 8 visits over 21 days before requiring a doctor's referral.

SR 560 Unterman – 45 **NNS** Creates the 4 member Senate Women's Adequate Healthcare Study Committee. *The statistics are alarming. There are about 130,000 births in GA per year with 60% covered by Medicaid and 45% are to unwed mothers and 7% have had no prenatal care. GA ranks highest in the nation in syphilis and 6th highest in newborns getting syphilis. Forty counties have no OBs and 31 hospital delivery units have closed. GA has five OB-GYN residency programs which do not produce enough doctors. This study is needed.*

SR 594 McKoon – 29 **NNS** Creates the 5 member Senate Rate of Diagnosis for Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Related Disorders Committee.

HR 612 Cooper – 43 **NNS** Creates the 7 member House Study Committee on Fibroids Education and Awareness.

HR 618 Clark – 101 **NNS** Creates the 5 member House Study Committee on Adult Day Services. Two members are non-legislators – one is an owner of an adult day care facility and one is a consumer or a family member of a consumer of such facility. *Alzheimer's patients currently take 40% of all slots.*

HIGHER EDUCATION

HB 3 Fleming – 121 **TGFS** Persons who entice college athletes to violate the terms of their participation in college sports by entering into or soliciting a transaction therefrom shall be subject to fines and/or jail consequences. *The Todd Gurley bill, named for the UGA football player sanctioned for getting money for signing memorabilia, while the person who paid him was not.*

HR 71 Gordon – 163 **NNS** Creates the 7 member House Study Committee on the HOPE Scholarship Program Award for Critical Fields of Study. *Sponsor feels full tuition should be paid for students trying to become prepared for careers in critical fields.*

HR 302 Parrish – 158 **NNS** Urges Congress to enact significant reforms in graduate medical education programs and provide states with financial resources to fund more residency slots. *By 2020, GA will be 50th for number of physicians. The state currently has more medical students than residency slots for them to go to.*

HR 304 Cooper – 43 **TGFS** Encourages GAs colleges, universities, and technical colleges to expand gerontology and dementia education and training. *GA population has 1.5 million over age 60 and expects to increase that 66% by 2030. Alzheimers affects 130,000 over age 65.*

HB 320 Williams – 119 **TGFS** Student records held by Georgia Student Finance Commission, Georgia Student Finance Authority, or Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation, are exempt from open records requests if

15.0.PASSED

individual student can be identified. Debt settlement for amounts owed to GA Student Finance Commission or Authority can be by garnishment of pay, loss of a professional license, lottery winnings, or state tax refund without judicial action.

HB 353 Rogers – 29 **TGFS** Updates the law for non-public postsecondary institutions bringing the law into line with practice. *An agency bill. Code for this agency has not been updated since 1991. There are some 350 schools in GA that this agency oversees.*

HR 827 Ramsey – 72 **NNS** Creates the 7 member House Study Committee on the Preservation of the HOPE Scholarship Program. Explore additional funding.

REVENUE/TAXATION

HB 63 Tanner – 9 **TGFS** Georgia Employer GED Tax Credit Act of 2015. Employers who pay for employees to take the GED test through the Technical College System are granted an income tax credit of \$400/employee and \$1200/employee who passes the test. State aggregate amount is \$1 million. Individual employer cap is \$100,000. Employer cannot require employee to make any payment for the course or test. Effective 1-1-16. Repealed 1-1-20.

SB 82 Wilkinson - 50 The distribution to counties, cities, and school districts of the alternative ad valorem motor vehicle tax on apportioned vehicles, trucks that travel through several states, have generated more revenue under this system than the previous one, but the formula for distribution of those revenues was based on a percent of each county's tax digest to the whole state. Rural counties received less than they had gotten under the older system. Now, the total amount raised in 2013 (\$9 million) under the old tax system is distributed back to the counties as under the old system, and the amount collected over that (\$6 million, in 2013) is distributed based on the number of vehicles in a county as a percent of the total in the state. This two tiered system will exist for 5 years, gradually reducing the Tier 1 base amount.

HB 94 Williams – 119 **TGFS** GA residents who voluntarily cancel the registration of a motor vehicle will not be liable for any late fees for payment of taxes due thereon. The tax remains payable.

SB 122 Mullis – 53 **TGFS** County SPLOST funding may pay for repairs of capital projects damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster. This category must be on the project list to be voted upon, although without a dollar amount as natural disasters cannot be predicted and the amount of damages even less certain. Projects may be state owned, operated, or administered. *Another source of funding for providing governmental services in a time of great need. Cited were the tornadoes in north GA four years ago.*

HB 202 Battles – 15 **TGFS** An extensive revision of property tax processes. Some of the changes are:

- Local tax commissioners may permit taxpayers to receive property tax bills electronically.
- The property tax rate must be put on the website of the governmental entity in addition to putting a notice in the newspaper of general distribution.
- The tax digest submission deadline to DOE changed to Sep. 1, currently Aug 1.
- Fines increased for late filing.
- Two or more counties may combine tax assessors and commissioners offices. The agreement shall be in writing.
- Taxpayers may receive copies of documents used to set the value of their real property. A description of the methodology used in setting its fair market value and testing for uniformity shall be included.
- Superior courts given jurisdiction over actions against the Board of Assessors to enforce compliance with law.
- Clerk of Superior Court shall be the 'appeals administrator' and receive any complaint to forward to the grand jury which may find grounds for removal of a member of the Board of Equalization for failure to perform required duties.
- Members of the Board of Equalization must be property owners within the jurisdiction and complete 20 hours of training each year.
- Motor vehicle manufacturers headquartered in GA can get special license plates and pay no property taxes on vehicles used by the manufacturer. (Mercedes)

15.0.PASSED

- A sales tax exemption on construction materials at a private college with enrollment between 1000 and 3000 for one year, 7-1-15 through 6-30-16, or \$350,000. Sales tax paid at purchase and refunded up to the limit. (Truett-McConnell in Cleveland, GA).

HB 215 Jacobs – 80 **TGFS** Allows a second HOST tax in a county to pay for infrastructure throughout the county. The sales tax in the county rises to 8%. Modifies the existing HOST to be dedicated 100% to property tax relief. Each measure will need a local referendum and both must pass to become effective, else the existing HOST stays as it is, 80% property tax relief and 20% infrastructure. *DeKalb County. The second HOST will act like a SPLOST, except that it will not sunset. Only Atlanta City and Clayton County currently have an 8% sales tax rate.*

HB 234 Rutledge – 109 **TGFS** Tax return deadline for vehicle licensing will be extended a day if the Federal Reserve Bank is closed in addition to legal holidays and Saturdays and Sundays.

HB 237 Williamson – 115 **TGFS** Extends the angel tax credit to 2018. Credit is 35% of the amount invested in a qualified company. State aggregate amount is \$5 million/year.

HB 275 Strickland – 111 **TGFS** Adds the GA Lottery Corporation as an agency which may settle debts from lottery winnings. *Nine state entities may collect from taxpayers by claiming all or part of the winnings or income tax refund.*

HB 277 Broadrick – 4 **TGFS** The value of carpet samples for tax purposes now inclusive of all flooring samples.

HB 292 Knight – 130 Incorporate changes in federal tax law into GA law.

HB 308 Stephens – 164 **TGFS** The income tax credit for rehabilitation of historic structures is revised extensively. It caps the credit at \$60 million/year statewide and \$5 million/year per structure. Structure must be in service by 1-1-17. If abandoned within 5 years, the credit must be repealed. *Extensive bill. Has some job creation requirements.*

HB 319 Nimmer – 178 Ratifies the governor's suspension of sales tax increase on motor fuel.

HB 339 Burns – 159 **TGFS** The income tax credit for film, video, or digital production in GA is extended until 2018. State aggregate amount is \$12.5 million.

SR 350 Hill – 32 **NNS** Urges Congress to enact the Fair Tax which is 23% federal sales tax and a repeal of all other federal taxes and the sixteenth amendment to the constitution which empowers the income tax. *Party line vote.*

HB 374 Nix – 69 **TGFS** 'Forestry' equipment added to the definition of agriculture property for tax exemption purposes when held in dealer inventory. Farm equipment acquired with a lease-purchase agreement by a family owned qualified farm products producer and used in the production of agriculture products shall be property tax exempt.

HR 397 O'Neal – 146 **NNS** Encourages Congress to adopt the streamlined sales and use tax for collection of sales tax on sales to GA residents by internet and other remote sellers. *This tax is already owed but rarely paid by buyers. US Supreme Court decisions have ruled that if a company has no physical presence in a state, it cannot be made to follow its laws. Thus, sellers such as Amazon and LLBean do not collect and remit GA sales tax because they have no stores or warehouses in this state. The streamlined plan also encourages states to simplify their sales tax laws so that companies can more easily voluntarily comply with collection and remittance of the tax. Currently, bricks and mortar stores are at a price disadvantage when they sell items that internet sellers also sell.*

HB 426 Taylor – 173 **TGFS** A sales tax exemption for non-profit health centers for 3 years, until June 30, 2018. Annually, each health center shall report to the Revenue Department the number of patients served, average monthly full-time employees, total amount of exempt purchases. Also exempts sales tax for food and food ingredients to charities that feed the hungry or provide meals after a disaster.

15.0.PASSED

HB 428 Stephens – 164 **TGFS** A sales tax exemption for construction projects at: a zoological institution (Zoo Atlanta) to be extended until June 30, 2018 up to \$350,000; an aquarium (GA Aquarium) until January 1, 2017 up to \$750,000; a museum of natural history (Fernbank) until January 1, 2017 up to \$300,000. Sales tax shall be paid at purchase and refunded by the Department of Revenue up to the limit specified.

HB 457 Hawkins – 27 **TGFS** Watercraft which is self-propelled or capable of being self-propelled and held for sale in inventory is exempt from property tax until December 2019.

HB 464 Williamson – 115 **TGFS** An income tax credit repeal for water conservation facilities and a shift from ground-water usage effective Dec. 31, 2016.

LOCAL

HB 213 Jacobs – 80 **TGFS** MARTA's use of sales tax revenues permanently relieved of any statutory spending requirements. Allows a tax rate of 1.5% in any of its jurisdictions with approval in a local referendum, with revenues from the increase to be used for capital projects within that jurisdiction. The 1% tax rate will continue until 2057 when it will reduce to .5%. Provides authority for MARTA to enforce its rules for patrons who violate them by suspending the use of its services to them or imposing a civil fine or both. *Currently, 50% of sales tax revenues must be spent on operating expenses and the rest for capital projects, although temporarily lifted in legislation passed in 2014. This makes it permanent.*

HB 570 Jones – 47 **TGFS** The City of Milton council residency districts are redrawn. Milton has 3 city council members who each must live in a residency district but are elected city-wide.

HB 571 Willard – 51 **TGFS** City of Sandy Springs may levy a hotel-motel tax of 5% on hotel rooms in the city. Half the revenue will go to promote tourism, conventions, and trade shows. The rest will be spent for tourism product development. Effective 7-1-15.

HB 595 Jones – 47 **TGFS** Fulton County Library System is the official name, but within the city of Atlanta, the name Atlanta-Fulton Library System may be used. Effective 7-1-15 the library board shall have 8 members – one appointee by each Fulton County Commissioner and one non-voting appointee by the Mayor of Atlanta. Commissioner appointees serve at the pleasure of the commissioner and for a term concurrent with that of the commissioner. Board members may not hold any elective office, may be removed for cause or for failure to attend 4 or more meetings during the year and become ineligible for reappointment during the commissioner's present term of office. Members may receive a per diem allowance for each board meeting attended at an amount determined by the Fulton County Commission. The Executive Director is appointed by the board, serves at the pleasure of the board, and is confirmed by the Commission.

HB 650 Waites – 60 **TGFS** Atlanta CFO annually will recommend to the City Council for approval a fee for 911 services.

HB 655 Willard – 51 **TGFS** Fulton County chief magistrate or designee will be the court administrator with budget oversight. Unexpended funds at year end will lapse into the Fulton County general fund.

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Sally FitzGerald, sallyfitz@bellsouth.net

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