

17 March 2017

LWVAF, Report from the Capitol, Week 10

This week the General Assembly met for four days, through Day 35. The last 5 days of the session will be covered in the next two weeks with sine die adjournment scheduled for March 30.

As this report shows, lots of legislation is moving. Floor debate calendars are getting longer, and for all practical purposes, Monday is the last day for committee hearings to vet bills. The focus will be on the Rules Committees who determine which bills will see the light of day for this session.

Some parliamentary activity which is reflected in this report. A bill is 'reconsidered' when it has failed in a vote, and a member having voted with for the measure asks for the body to 'reconsider', that is, to vote again. This motion takes just a majority vote. Once reconsidered, the body may choose to take up the measure again.

A committee can choose not to recommend a measure but taking a vote to 'do not pass'. This kills the proposal for the legislative term. Most often, though, the committee will simply hold the bill, perhaps for a later day.

We have entered the season for agrees and disagrees. Any changes made in the second chamber must go back to the first chamber for agreement. The first chamber may not like the changes, so the proposal is 'disagreed' to. The ball is now back in the court of the chamber 2. They may recede from their changes, or insist on them. If no agreement can be reached, the chamber may appoint a conference committee to resolve the differences. This is the path the budget most often takes. The decision of the conference committee goes back to both chambers for a vote and no amendments can be made. If there is no agreement and no conference committee, the bill is held for next year or dies.

Monday, March 20 is the last day to change your voter registration for the special election on April 18. It may be done on-line at www.sos.ga.gov/elections.

Saturday, April 22, will be the LWV Atlanta-Fulton Legislative Reception where the final report will be available. Save that date and bring a friend.

BOLD Bill Number = final passage
CA = constitutional amendment. Requires a 2/3s vote in each chamber and a majority vote in the next general election scheduled for November 2018.
DV = Differing Versions
NNS = Needs No Signature
TGFS = To Governor for Signature

In CHAMBERS

BUDGET

HB 44 Ralston – 7 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **DV** **In Conference Committee**
FY18

CHILDREN

HB 75 Willard – 51 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **TGFS**
Child abuse records that contain information provided by law enforcement or prosecutors related to criminal prosecution of a case are closed to the public.

HB 86 Oliver – 82 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **TGFS**
Entities required to report child abuse to DFCS shall also report acts of trafficking a person for sexual servitude.

EDUCATION

SR 95 Black – 8 **PASSED** Senate **FAILED** in House **DV RECONSIDERED**

CA to divide ESPLOST proceeds between a county school system and any city school system therein. The split shall be based on the FTE in each system unless an agreement is reached between the systems for another formula which no longer has to be ratified by the legislature. If no agreement is reached, the school system with the higher enrollment may call a referendum for the area which it serves. Enabling legislation is SB 76.

ELECTIONS/ETHICS

HB 268 Fleming – 121 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **DV**

Election officials requiring certification must complete the process within six months following their appointment. Repeals provision for municipal registrars. Eliminates as an acceptable photo ID the Bureau of Indian Affairs card number, the tribal card number, or the tribal enrollment number. Polling places outside the boundaries of the precinct shall be determined 90 or more days before an election. Gives precinct workers authority to manage the number of people within a polling place to prevent confusion, congestion, and inconvenience to voters. A voter registration applicant will have 26 months, now 30 days, to correct or submit incomplete information. In presidential election years, a request for an absentee ballot in the presidential preferential primary will automatically put one on the list to get an absentee ballot in all the other elections that year. Independent candidates declare for office about the time partisan candidates do. *A proposal of the Secretary of State.*

GOVERNMENT - GENERAL

HB 1 Spencer – 180 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **DV**

GA Space Flight Act. Limits liability of space flight bases and entities utilizing those bases by anyone participating in a space flight, except crew members. *In short, be anywhere near a space flight base and be responsible for any injury therein and any damage to your property is your loss.*

SB 85 Jeffares – 17 **PASSED** Senate **PASSED** House **DV**

Licensed brewers may sell directly to customers at the brewery site up to 3000 gallons per year for consumption both on and off site. Off premise consumption sales limited to 288 oz/day/customer (24 cans at 12 oz each). Licensed distilleries may sell up to three 750 milliliters bottles/day/customer and up to 500 barrels annually. Off premise sales only on days and during hours permitted by local law. Repeals requirement to take a tour of the brewery or distillery. Effective 9-1-17.

GOVERNMENT – COURTS AND CRIMES

HB 39 Powell – 32 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **TGFS**

Real estate appraisers, brokers, and salespeople convicted of offenses are to report them within 10 days to the Board of Real Estate Professionals. A hearing must be requested within 60 days. If not, the board may revoke the license without a hearing.

HB 303 Ballinger – 23 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **TGFS**

State Commission on Family Violence members have terms increased to 3 years, currently 2 years, with a two consecutive term limit which is not applicable to those serving by virtue of office.

GOVERNMENT – ENVIRONMENT

SR 152 Ginn – 47 **PASSED** Senate **PASSED** House **TGFS**

Creates the 17-member Joint Study Committee on Stream Buffers in GA to make recommendations on how the state can strike a balance between clean water protection and private property rights. Each chamber will have 5 members, plus 6 citizens and the Environmental Protection Division director. Report due 12-1-17.

SR 224 Ginn – 47 **PASSED** Senate **PASSED** House **TGFS**

Creates the 12-member Joint Study Committee on Storm-Water Management Fees for the purpose of assessing a more equitable way to impose fees based on the impact from such property on storm water collection and disposal systems. The members are 2 each from Senate and House, 4 with local government expertise, and 4 private property owners subject to storm-water management fees. Report due 12-31-17.

HEALTH

SB 47 Hufstetler – 52 **PASSED** Senate **PASSED** House **DV**

Exempts from licensure a physician licensed in another state but traveling into GA with a sports team for training or competition. The physician cannot practice in the state and is limited to serving the team members and staff. Senate: Includes physician assistants and athletic trainers.

SB 96 Watson – 1 **PASSED** Senate **PASSED** House **TGFS**

Death in a nursing home, hospice, or if suspicious or unusual, may be declared by a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, even if the patient is an organ donor. *Currently, organ donor patients have to be declared dead by a physician. Time is of the essence for organs to be usable. And a doctor may not be on site at the time.*

SB 103 Mullis – 53 **PASSED** Senate **PASSED** House **TGFS**

Allows pharmacist to recommend alternative medication which will serve the patient, such as a generic.

SB 109 Williams – 27 **PASSED** Senate **PASSED** House **DV**

Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA) is a multistate compact to recognize EMTs, advanced EMTs and paramedics licensure, authority, and regulation from other states in the compact.

REVENUE/TAXATION

HB 265 Efstrotation - 104 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **DV**

An income tax credit for establishing or relocating 50 or more quality jobs if a \$2.5 million acquisition of property for expanding or new construction for \$2500 or \$5000 per job created depending on the wages above the average in the county. An income tax credit and sales tax exemption for 18 months for a project for a facility that contains an art museum, symphonic hall, and theater owned by a charitable organization. A sales tax exemption for 3 years on admission tickets to a fine arts entity owned and operated by a non-profit whose primary mission is to advance the arts and to provide arts education and culturally significant programming and exhibits in GA.

TRANSPORTATION/DRIVING

SB 169 Kirk – 13 **PASSED** Senate **PASSED** House **TGFS**

Authorizes a special license plate to honor law enforcement officers. ‘Back the Blue’ will be across the bottom of the plate. Proceeds over cost will go to the Peace Officers’ Association of GA.

LOCAL

SB 269 Fort – 39 **PASSED** Senate **H.LLeg**

An Inspector General is created for the City of Atlanta to do financial and programmatic reviews of city government for compliance with the city charter and state and federal law, may investigate allegations of improper conduct or actions by city officials and employees, may issue subpoenas and may refer cases for prosecution. The IG will be appointed by the city council from recommendations made from a committee of chief judges of Fulton County Superior Court and State Court and DeKalb Superior Court. The candidate must be an Atlanta resident, age 25 or over, and a member of the state bar in good standing. Cannot be a relative or business partner within 3 years of appointment of the mayor, any department or agency head or any city council member. To be appointed by 12-1-17 for a six year term. May be removed by a vote of the city council from a recommendation of the same committee which recommends hiring, or if no recommendation, by a 3/4s vote of the city council.

HB 361 Willard – 51 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **TGFS**

Fulton Schools Pension contributions made by the employees shall be considered employer contributions for tax purposes.

HB 385 Bazemore – 63 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **TGFS**

The City of South Fulton mayor is a part of the quorum of four members and may vote only in case of a tie.

HB 440 Beskin – 54 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **TGFS**

Two tax parcels are being annexed into the City of Sandy Springs from the City of Atlanta. This bill will be effective only if HB 439 passes in the 2017 General Assembly.

HB 534 Price – 48 **PASSED** House **PASSED** Senate **TGFS**

Roswell city council members may serve up to 3 consecutive terms, beginning 1-1-18. Prior experience is not counted. No one who has served three or more terms as mayor is eligible to run again for mayor.

HB 574 Raffensperger – 50 **PASSED** House **S.SLGO**

A vacancy on the city council or office of mayor will require a special election to fill it, unless there is less than 6 months left in the term, when the council will appoint a successor. The mayor is to appoint a city manager with city council approval.

In COMMITTEE

CHILDREN

SB 168 Miller – 39 **PASSED** House **DO PASS** in H.Juvenile Justice

Grants access to child abuse records to a licensed adoption agency when placing a child for adoption. Also law enforcement agencies in GA, departments of Community Supervision, Corrections, and Juvenile Justice may have access when such departments are providing supervision or services concurrently with Department of Family and Children's Services, unless federal law or regulations prohibit release.

SB 170 Hill – 6 **PASSED** Senate **DO PASS** in H.Juvenile Justice

GA SERVES Act of 2017. Certifies volunteers to be available to help foster children in capacities less than a foster parent. There are three levels of certification. Level 1 includes babysitting for less than a day and not overnight. Levels 2 and 3 are higher levels of certification and can provide respite care, overnight care, and even in home care. Requires a criminal background check and training as defined by DFCS.

SB 175 Kennedy – 18 **PASSED** Senate **DO PASS** in H.Juvenile Justice

Juvenile courts may impose conditions on parents of children in need of services, delinquent, involved in a court's community based risk reduction program. Such conditions may be such things as insuring attendance at school, monitoring homework and studies after school, attending meetings requested by school personnel, participation with child in counseling or treatment and following their recommendations, providing transportation to the child to attend counseling, programs, and other court ordered services, providing instruction and guidance to improve behavior, banning some people from contact with the child, entering into and completing a substance abuse program, abstaining from offensive conduct against the child.

HB 250 Ballinger – 23 **PASSED** House **DO PASS** in S.Special Judiciary **DV**

An employee of early care and learning who received a satisfactory fingerprint records check within the previous 24 months is exempt from an additional background check for providing care to children placed in a foster home.

HB 266 Kelley – 16 **PASSED** House **DO PASS** in S.Banking & Financial Institutions

A natural guardian of a minor may hold up to \$25,000 for use of that minor without becoming a legally qualified conservator of the minor.

EDUCATION

HB 114 Dickey – 140 **PASSED** House **DO PASS** in S.Education & Youth

Bans local boards of education for excluding students from consideration of valedictorian or salutatorian if the student is enrolled in any dual enrollment courses. Student must have taken at least one course at the high school during grades 9-12. Does not apply to students transferring into a school in the third year or later. *With more and more students taking dual credit courses there has been some resentment when those students were given valedictorian or salutatorian, especially if they had taken no courses at the school. So many local school boards have adopted policies about the number of credits or courses a student must take at the school to be eligible for these honor recognitions. This bill will set a minimum standard.*

HB 139 Belton – 112 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Education & Youth

Requires all financial information to be disclosed publicly by school and school district and dictates how schools can be compared, i.e. by per pupil or per square foot expenditure. DOE will collect and develop the website. Individual districts and schools which have a web site must include a link to the DOE site. *Currently, the chart of accounts required to be used by school districts makes such per school expenditures problematic, except for direct salaries which constitute 80% or more per school expenses while central office salaries are not generally distributed between schools served. Distributing much of the non-salaried expenses ordered by the school district but used by multiple schools requires cost accounting techniques which do not exist in school districts. DOE could distribute indirect expenses among the schools in the district on the bases of percent of FTEs in each school.*

HB 148 Glanton – 75 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Education & Youth

Requires DOE to provide a unique identification number for students who are children of active military personnel so that statistics can be aggregated for them. *The DOE already identifies these students in their digital record.*

SB 186 Tippins – 37 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Higher Education

Students completing high school through dual enrollment at technical colleges or via internet are eligible for a HOPE grant towards an associate's degree. *Students who take courses at a technical college while in high school are paid from a pot of money appropriated annually by the legislature. When the student has completed the work on the specific industry certificate, the student may be a few hours [15 or so] short of an associate's degree. But the funding stream for the certificate will not pay for that additional coursework, and the eligibility for HOPE grant may not be met. This bill allows the lottery funded HOPE to complete the additional required hours for an associate's degree.*

SR 192 Wilkinson – 50 **PASSED** Senate DO NOT PASS in H.Education

CA to allow by local legislation and a local referendum the election of the school superintendent. If such superintendent is elected, the members of the board of education shall be appointed by the county grand jury. *This structure was in place prior to 1992 and was repealed. LWV OPPOSES. LWV believes that administrators should be appointed and policy makers should be elected.*

HB 198 Dempsey – 13 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Education & Youth

In grades 6 – 12 when the required information about the meningitis vaccine is distributed by the school, information about influenza and its vaccine is also to be distributed.

HB 224 Belton – 112 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Education & Youth

Students who live in military housing on or off base may attend any school within the school system if space permits. Parent provides transportation. Effective with the 2017-18 school year. *If parent leaves the military, does the student have to transfer to the school in which the residence is located? There is some thought that this proposal and others for students in military families might be an asset when the next BRAC commission is looking at closing military bases.*

HB 245 Williams – 168 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Veterans, Military & Homeland Security

Professional Service Commission is to establish a path for military spouses to get temporary teaching certification and endorsements.

HB 246 Cantrell – 22 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Education & Youth

Repeals the sunset on the annual fitness assessment program in schools.

HB 425 Chandler – 105 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Education & Youth
Urges local school systems to allow state mandated tests to be administered by paper and pencil at parent request. Discourages punitive actions for students refusing to participate in any mandated test, federal, state or local. DOE to provide example of educational activity for student to engage in while others are taking the test. ***If the law says one must take a test, then one must suck it up and take the test. Doing what is required is also part of education.***

HB 437 Dickey – 140 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Education & Youth
Recreates the Agriculture Education Advisory Committee to advise the SBOE on curriculum and other matters relative to education in the agriculture pathway.

HB 463 Dempsey – 13 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Education & Youth
DECAL can set up a foundation to receive donations for use in early care and learning.

ELECTIONS/ETHICS

SB 258 Tillery - 19 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Government Affairs **DV**
City employees and officials who hold public money and refuse or fail to turn it over to the treasury shall be no longer eligible to hold office. ***State and county officials are already under this requirement. Senate: adds school districts.***

SR 403 Shafer – 48 **NNS** DO PASS in S.Rules
Appointing Seth Harp to the State Election Board. ***Mr. Harp is a lawyer from the Columbus area and served several terms in the state Senate. This seat was vacated by Tex McIver who is under indictment for the death of his wife.***

GOVERNMENT - GENERAL

SB 108 Walker – 20 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Defense & Veterans Affairs
Commissioner of Veterans Services is to maintain a Women’s Veteran Office to improve awareness of eligibility for federal and state veteran’s services, conduct assessments of the specific needs of women veterans, and review programs, research projects, and other initiatives addressing women veterans in GA. The office shall assist in recruiting and training women veterans to serve as mentors for veterans participating in veterans’ courts.

SB 117 Martin -9 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Government Affairs **DV**
Authorizes GA Technology Authority to set uniform policies and procedures for cybersecurity in the executive branch including departments headed by constitutional officers. GTA may grant a waiver if special conditions apply, such as client-attorney privileges. ***Currently, there is no authority over departments headed by constitutional officers. GA cannot get insurance against cyber security intrusions because there is no coverage in some very large departments.***

SB 128 Wilkinson – 50 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Public Safety & Homeland Security
Adds the Department of Natural Resources to the government agencies to which Department of Drivers Services can release personal information. DNR will use the information to detect and prevent fraud in applications for licenses, permits, and regulations issued by the department.

SR 130 Hufstetler – 52 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Special Rules **DV**
Creates the 14 member Joint Transparency and Open Access in Government Study Committee to recommend how data can be shared with other state government entities and the public without compromising individual privacy. There are 4 members from each chamber and 6 citizens with specific data information or security experience. Report due 12-1-17.

SB 141 Thompson - 14 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Regulated Industries **DV**
An engineering evaluation is required to get a permit for a carnival ride after 1-1-18.

SB 226 Miller – 49 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Regulated Industries
Wine growers may import up to 40% of the grapes used in making their wine and still have it known as GA Grown.

SR 290 Sims – 12 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Special Rules

Creates the 10 member Joint Georgia-Alabama Study Committee to make recommendations for issues which affect both the states. Each chamber has five members who represent border counties with Alabama. Report due 12-1-17.

HB 309 Barr – 103 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Veterans, Military & Homeland Security
The state shall incur no liability when an organized militia is engaged in state or federal duty or training except for vehicle accidents. *Same for the GA National Guard.*

GOVERNMENT – COUNTIES AND CITIES

HB 257 Tankersley – 160 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.SLGO
A local government entity must register with the Department of Community Affairs to receive state funds, and shall not incur debt or credit obligations before registering.

GOVERNMENT – COURTS AND CRIMES

SB 18 Harper – 7 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Public Safety & Homeland Security **DV**
Retired state and local police officers may retain their badges and weapons if they leave under honorable conditions. Retired police officers from other states may have the same privileges of retired GA police officers by meeting POST requirements for annual recertification on their weapon. *Retaining badges and weapons is a perk of most state and many local law enforcement agencies under statute. This allows all agencies not already granted that authority to provide it for their retirees.*

HB 452 Petrea – 166 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Public Safety **DV**
Aliens released from federal custody into GA are to be publicly posted by the GBI within 12 hours and be sent to the GA Sheriffs' Association. The information is to come from the Law Enforcement Notification System of the Enforcement Integrated Database of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

GOVERNMENT - EMPLOYMENT

SB 201 Miller – 49 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Industry & Labor **DV**
Earned sick leave from employers of 25 or more may be used for immediate family members. Nothing requires the employer to offer sick leave or to allow an employee to use more than 5 days for an immediate family member.

HB 202 Powell – 171 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Appropriations **DV**
Increases the salary of the governor to \$175,000 per year, currently \$139,000, effective 1 -1-19.

HB 312 Maxwell – 17 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Retirement
Employees Retirement System, ERS, may include as part of a deferred compensation plan, a Roth plan.

GOVERNMENT – ENVIRONMENT

HB 205 Meadows – 5 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Regulated Industries & Utilities **DV**
Regulates hydraulic fracking in GA to protect our underground fresh water supply. Increases drilling permit fee to \$500, now \$25. Raises bond maximum to \$100,000. Levies a severance tax on oil and gas extracted with 1/3 going to the county where the well is located and 2/3 to the state.

HEALTH

SB 4 Unterman – 45 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Health & Human Services **DV**
Establishes the 17- member GA Mental Health Treatment Task Force to develop applications for a Medicaid Waiver and block grant funding. Legislative approval required before submission. There are 306,000 adults with serious mental illnesses in GA and less than one third are being served by the state. Examine the mental health treatments and resources currently in GA, what works best, and what changes are needed. Effective treatment may also necessitate substance abuse

treatment. The members are 3 Senators, 3 House members, and 11 appointed by the governor from specified state departments. Report due 12-1-17.

SB 88 Mullis – 53 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Health & Human Services **DV**
Regulates narcotic treatment programs and licenses programs in 49 regions of the state, the same as judicial regions. Defines scope and regulations for geographic placement of programs. Allows 4 treatment programs in each region and grandfathers existing programs. Applicants must demonstrate need and solicit public input. ***Opioid addictions are escalating. Good treatment programs provide methadone for drug therapy, which trades one addiction for another, and extensive counseling so the addiction can be conquered requiring each treatment program to have both a medical program and a counseling program. Much of this proposal is encoding in law what is already in regulations.***

SB 200 Hufstetler – 52 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Insurance **DV**
Doctors and pharmacists may prescribe and dispense medications for chronic illnesses for less than 30 days so patients can synchronize refills.

SB 206 Martin – 9 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Insurance **DV**
Requires health insurance policies to cover hearing aids for children 18 years and under.

HB 322 Hitchens – 161 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Veterans, Military & Homeland Security
Veterans eligible for admission to the war veteran’s home are those serving until 8-1-90, currently 5-7-75.

HIGHER EDUCATION

HB 37 Ehrhart – 36 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Higher Education
Private postsecondary institutions shall not adopt sanctuary policies. Withholding state funds for the institution and its students can be the penalty. ***The House minority report indicates there is no process defined for the institution to challenge the ruling, nor does it indicate who or what makes the ruling of sanctuary policies. Withholding of grants, especially Tuition Equalization Grants, will hurt students who had nothing to do with adopting the policy.***

REVENUE/TAXATION

HB 117 Watson – 172 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Finance
Voluntary contributions in addition to the price of a ticket to amusement, sports, or entertainment shall not be sales taxable. ***Ticket price is \$50, but the check is for \$75. Only the \$50 is sales taxable.***

SB 133 Walker – 20 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Ways & Means
The corporate net worth tax is not to apply to corporations with a net worth of less than \$100,000. ***Currently, they pay a graduated tax of \$100 or less.***

HB 134 Epps – 144 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Finance **DV**
A sales tax for transportation purposes for public transit, rails, and buses may be for 20 years. If the sales tax includes roads, bridges, airports, or seaports, it can only be for 5 years.

HB 195 Harrell – 106 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Finance
For profit corporations may participate in indirect ownership of a home for the mentally disabled without the loss of an exemption for property taxes. Statewide referendum required in November 2018.

HB 209 Hawkins - 27 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Finance
Disabled veterans getting a final determination from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs which has a period of retroactive eligibility shall be entitled to a refund of all property taxes paid during the past three years.

HB 238 Hatchett – 150 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Finance **DV**
Property subject to conservation use which has solar generation for sale will not breach the covenant, but the acreage used therefor shall be removed from the covenant and be subject to property tax at market value.

HB 247 LaRiccia – 169 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Finance

A sales tax exemption for three years for materials used to repair and maintain mixer trucks used to mix or transport concrete. *This exemption is being granted under that which manufacturers have, since the truck makes the cement.*

HB 290 Watson – 172 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Finance

The property tax exemption for farm equipment is extended to that which is leased-purchased in addition to that which is owned.

HB 342 Efstrotation – 104 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Finance **DV**

Sales taxes are exempt within an enterprise zone for 30 years.

HB 357 Stephens – 164 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Finance **DV**

All water vessels are to be titled unless exempted. If hull is damaged, the title shall be so marked. Caps tax at \$600 for each vessel, \$15,000 in value. Those worth more are not taxed more.

TRANSPORTATION/DRIVING

SB 6 Gooch – 51 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Transportation **DV**

Creates the GA Regional Transit Council to study transportation issues and develop a statewide plan to improve the state's transportation infrastructure.

SB 183 Beach – 21 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in H.Transportation

State Road and Tollway Authority may extend a toll for additional purposes.

HB 234 Frye – 118 **PASSED** Senate DO PASS in S.Public Safety

Rapid-flash beacons at unsignalized intersections or mid-block crosswalks activated by pedestrians or bicycle riders shall require vehicles to stop until the pedestrian or bicycle has cleared the intersection or crosswalk.

HB 287 Kirby – 114 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Veterans, Military, & Homeland Security

Adds stepparents to those who may get a Gold Star vehicle license plate free. Gold Star license plates are for parents, spouses, siblings and spouses of siblings of military personnel killed in action.

HB 320 Hitchens – 161 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Public Safety

Counterfeit air bags sold, installed, or traded is a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature, currently just a misdemeanor. *Counterfeit air bags can be dangerous by spewing metal parts if triggered, causing injury.*

LOCAL

HB 506 Taylor – 79 **PASSED** House DO PASS in S.Transportation

MARTA contracts for concessions vendors can be awarded to those who provide the best performance and return to MARTA, not the highest return.

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League of Women Voters – Atlanta/Fulton

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