

28 March 2018

LWVAF, Report from the Capitol, Week 12 Sine Die!

The General Assembly has adjourned sine die. Now, it is in the governor's court. He has 40 calendar days, until May 8, to either sign or veto. The bill will become law anyway if neither happens.

The state budget is predicted to have more money than ever before in the coming fiscal year, \$26 billion. Peruse below the many places agreed to for expenditure, and this is only a sampling. Education, womb to tomb, gets more than all other categories of expenditures combined, and that continues this year. The K-12 budget will get almost \$10 billion, excluding the bonds for new and renovated schools. Transit, for the first time, has gotten the state's attention.

Three constitutional amendments were given the green light to go on the November ballot. If Fulton County votes to repeal a local constitutional amendment, the Fulton County Industrial Park will be annexed to the City of South Fulton and the county will be 100% municipalized, the first in the state. Local constitutional amendments were allowed prior to the 1983 revision of the state constitution, but those in place continued to exist.

This report contains activity from the final week. The report for the entire session will be available at our annual Legislative Reception, date and time TBA shortly. Be sure to register to vote by April 23 for the May 22 Primary. Advanced Voting begins April 30.

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.

NNS = Needs No Signature

TGFS = To Governor for Signature

In CHAMBERS

BUDGET

HB 684 Ralston – 8 **TGFS** FY2019 Budget for the year beginning July 1, 2018. The top items in the recommendations to spend the over \$1 billion, including the \$195 million additional added by the governor late in the session, in additional revenue expected are:

\$316 million to shore up Teacher Retirement funds, spread through budgets of Education, University System, and Technical College System of GA

20 million in Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities for children's mental health

6 million in Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities for autistic children under age 21

3.7 million in Economic Development, OneGeorgia Authority, for economic development projects

144 million in Community Health, net, for Medicaid-Aged Blind and Disabled

97 million in Community Health for Medicaid-Low Income

4.4 million in Corrections to increase private prison correctional officer pay.

(95 million) reduction in DOE to reflect QBE reduction because of increased local property values

167 million in Education to **eliminate** the annual austerity cut to QBE, in effect since 2003.

31 million in Education in Equalization Funds to low wealth school districts

112 million in Education to local school systems for additional students enrolled

5 million in Education for State Commission Charter School supplemental funds

1.6 million in Education for student mental health awareness training

15 million in Education for replacement of buses, bonds

15 million in Education for school facility safety grants, bonds

1.6 million in Office of Student Achievement for a statewide leadership academy
-.75 million in Office of Student Achievement for one non-STEM AP exam fee for low income students
2.3 million in GBI to combat the opioid epidemic
27.3 million in Human Services for Out-Of-Home Care
2.7 million in Natural Resources for additional law enforcement rangers
2 million in Public Health to address maternal mortality in GA
54.3 million in Regents for increases in enrollment and square footage
1.4 million in Regents for Public Libraries technology improvements
26.7 million in Student Finance Commission to fund additional students in dual enrollment programs, Lottery funds
35.7 million in Student Finance Commission for increased funds for public school students HOPE scholarships, Lottery
30 million in Student Finance Commission to fund HOPE Zell Miller scholarships, Lottery funds
12.2 million in Transportation for capital construction projects
100 million to repair, replace or renovate bridges statewide, bonds
35 million for the Savannah Harbor deepening project to match federal funds, bonds
100 million for State Road and Tollway Authority for transit needs state wide, bonds
121.4 million increased debt service costs.

CHILDREN

SB 131 Tillery – 19 **TGFS** Adoption proceedings will be stayed while an appeal of an order to terminate parental rights is pending.

HB 344 Dempsey – 13 **TGFS** Allows certain parties other than movants to request a paternity test from Department of Human Services in a case regarding child support orders.

HB 906 Dempsey – 13 **TGFS** Department of Human Service records from foster parents or former foster parents are not eligible for public disclosure except for name. Department of Family and Children Services may provide extended care youth services to foster children between the ages of 18 and 21, during which time a transition plan will be developed. Placement of a child shall require DFCS to provide the foster or pre-adoptive parent, caregiver, or relative specific information to ease the transition – how to enroll in school, any available financial assistance, contact information for county/district DFCS, medical information, any court dates scheduled, health insurance information.

EDUCATION – PREK – 12

HB 217 Carson – 46 **TGFS** Income tax credits for school scholarship organizations, SSOs, to provide expenses to students of attending a private school are increased to \$100 million for 10 years then will revert back to the current \$58 million. Annual reporting requirements must include the number of scholarships given to poverty level students. Establishes a sales tax exemption for charitable organizations, 501.c.3's, for noncommercial materials and mailings if located in GA and provided to charity supporters for educations, charitable, religious, or fundraising purposes. Tax is paid to the vendor, and submitted to Department of Revenue for a refund. Exemption expires 7-1-21. The Public Education Innovation Fund Foundation income tax credit sunset is extended until 2023. The tax credit is \$1000 for single taxpayers and \$2500 for joint taxpayers. The proceeds are used for public schools that need financial help in increasing their student achievement. ***League of Women Voters OPPOSES the voucher component of this bill.***

SB 330 Wilkinson – 50 **TGFS** Georgia Agriculture Education Act. Agriculture education in grades 6-12 will be based on a nationally recognized model with 3 parts, daily instruction, hands on real-world learning through supervised agriculture experience (SAE), with leadership and learning opportunities through Future Farmers of America participation. DOE shall develop the curriculum with input from agriculture education teachers. A pilot program will begin in 2019-2020 to provide agriculture education in 6 elementary schools, one in each Agriculture Education region which shall be evaluated at the end of the third year with a report to legislative Education committees. Professional Standards Commission shall extend the agriculture education in-field certification to elementary school (K-5) teachers.

SB 401 Tippins – 37 **TGFS** Students in middle school will have their career oriented aptitudes in addition to their career interests be a factor in developing their individual graduation plan to be used in selecting some high school courses. In 2018, school counselor roles in grades 6-12 will be reviewed by DOE and a report prepared for the state board of education and the General Assembly by 12-31-2018. The report shall include recommendations for changes to ensure student success. This study is effective for 2018 only. Technical colleges which have dual enrolled high school students are to report grades and other student aspects of the course to Office of Student Achievement for inclusion in the longitudinal data system.

HB 494 Dempsey – 13 **TGFS** Early Care and Learning hearings regarding emergency closure of a program shall permit hearsay evidence. Background checks of directors, employees, provisional employees and employee applicants shall be comprehensive, not just a fingerprint check. If the person does not pass, that person cannot work nor live at the facility while children are present. No one convicted of crimes against children can be in the facilities with children present.

HB 740 Nix – 69 **TGFS** Before PreK-3 students are to be given out of school suspension for more than five days in the school year, the student shall be enrolled in the RTI, Response to Intervention, process to determine if there are any physical reasons for the misbehavior, such as vision, hearing, or speech-language issues. Does not apply for infractions of possession of a weapon, drugs or other dangerous instruments or if the student's behavior endangered others. Requires parental permission. Special education students or those under Section 504 shall have a meeting convened to review appropriate supports for the student. ***Statewide, 2600 students in this age group receive suspensions exceeding 4 days at a time when the schools are trying to lay the foundations for literacy. RTI is a process defined at the federal level for students who have disciplinary issues and a cause, if any, needs to be determined.***

HB 763 Nix – 69 **TGFS** Improvement in school climate shall become a focus of the student attendance committee for each school system. Student discipline data is to be included in the annual report to the state board of education. Requires schools to practice the response to risks as defined in their safety plans on a schedule recommended by GEMA. ***Safety plans are already required for GEMA oversight. This requires GEMA to set a schedule for schools to practice the responses defined in those plans so all will know what to do. Fire drills and weather related situations already are required to be done.***

HB 787 Hilton – 95 **TGFS** State charter schools may be members of RESAs, Regional Education Service Agencies, and utilize any services provided to membership. Changes the state charter school funding in lieu of a local tax digest to be based on a state-wide average, currently an average of the 5 lowest wealthy school systems. Forward funding for expected enrollment over 2%, to be adjusted with the October student count. Virtual charters will get funding for the hardware provided to students and the servers to handle them, 25% of capital that goes to brick and mortar students. ***Traditional schools must wait until the midterm budget to get paid for the number of students who have enrolled over the previous year and get no money for computer hardware. A fiscal note indicates the cost of changing the funding basis will cost \$17 million in the first year. There are 90,000 students enrolled in charter schools, 33,000 in the 32 state charter schools; traditional schools have 1.7 million. Three state charter schools are virtual schools - one is to close in May 2018.*** A grant for students in an institution of the University System, if appropriated by the General Assembly, of \$1500/semester if several conditions are met: family income is \$48,000 or under, students is receiving a federal PELL grant but not a HOPE scholarship, has a high school GPA of at least 2.3, and either ACT scores of 21 or higher, SAT scores of 480 or higher on the reading-writing portion and 530 or higher on math, earned a 3 or better on at least 2 Advanced Placement courses, 4 or higher on at least 2 International Baccalaureate exams, or passed an end-of-gateway assessment under the Carl Perkins Act. Additionally, the student must work 15 hours/week during the semester and maintain a GPA of at least 2.3.

HB 853 Dempsey – 13 **TGFS** No student placed in a psychiatric residential treatment facility by the parent pursuant to a physician's order can be charged tuition. ***There are 6 facilities in the state. A student who is admitted will continue the student's educational program. If there is an IEP, it will also follow the student. Funds will be supplied by the home school for the duration of the stay.***

HR 898 Coleman – 97 **TGFS** Creates the 15-member Joint Study Committee on the Establishment of a State Accreditation Process. Members (HR 898) include 3 legislators from each chamber, the state school superintendent, the state board of education chair, the state Charter School Commission chair, the Office of Student Achievement director, the chancellor of the University System, and five appointees of the governor to include a local board of education member, a local school superintendent, a principal, a teacher, and a parent. The group is to study the resources and structure needed, any impediments, the interaction with existing private accreditation agencies, aligning accreditation reviews with charter or contract renewals for charter systems and strategic waiver systems, establishment of a state process for annual review of system charters and contracts including student achievement, local board of education governance and financial management, possible consequences of losing state accreditation and the possibility of establishing a school board review commission. Report due 12-1-18. ***Called for in legislation passed last year. Current accreditation looks at local school governance but not academics so much.***

SR 935 Albers – 56 **NNS** Creates the 8-member Senate School Safety Study Committee to ensure a safe learning environment for students and to evaluate the policies, plans, and procedures in place to respond to any emergency. ***The House also created a committee on school safety. Perhaps they'll jointly meet.***

HR 1036 Kendrick – 93 **NNS** Encourages schools to offer computer skills, and to ensure access to them by all students. Computing jobs are the number one source of new wages in the U.S., the average salary for such jobs is almost twice the average salary for all jobs, and there are 20,000 open computing jobs now in the state.

SR 1064 Sims – 12 **NNS** Creates a 5-member Senate Study Committee on Continual Audit Exceptions of Local School Systems to determine if there should be additional penalties for school systems that have the same audit exceptions over several years.

SR 1068 Gooch – 51 **NNS** Creates the 11-member Senate Study Committee on Evaluating the School Year Calendar to aid the tourism industry which provides 445,000 jobs and has a total impact of \$60.8 billion in the state. ***Voters elect a local school board to run schools including setting the calendar. That's what the constitutional provision of 'home rule' means – the locals will take care of local business.***

EDUCATION – POSTSECONDARY

SB 331 Henson – 41 **TGFS** Lottery winners of more than \$250,000 may remain anonymous with a written request from winner. ***Four states currently allow total anonymity and several more offer partial confidentiality to winners.***

SB 339 Ligon – 3 **TGFS** Requires University System of GA and its institutions to adopt policies to allow free speech as long as it does not disrupt instruction or conflict with another's rights. Restrictions of student speech allowed for activity not protected by the First Amendment, such as violations of state or federal law, defamation, harassment, threats, invasion of privacy, or action that unlawfully disrupts the function of the institution. ***This bill initially was significantly more restrictive on the university system, but was amended to allow governance to protect the primary purposes of the campus, to instruct, and to allow regulation on the use of space to avoid conflict.***

ELECTIONS & ETHICS

HB 973 Jones – 47 **TGFS** Lobbyists shall acknowledge and agree to abide by the sexual harassment policy of the General Assembly by signing a written document when being issued a lobbying badge. The badge can be revoked or not issued if there are violations of the policy.

GOVERNMENT – GENERAL

HB 190 Hanson – 80 **TGFS** Updates and clarifies antenuptial agreements, prenups. Must be in writing and signed by both parties with two witnesses, one of which is a notary. **Currently, GA doesn't require that these contracts be written and witnessed.**

SB 338 Ligon – 3 **TGFS** Allows the General Assembly to have oversight over executive branch regulations from departments and agencies. Requires 60 days notice before a rule change, adoption, or repeal, with a public hearing 30 days before the vote. Rules adopted prior to December 1 will become effective March 15; those adopted after will become effective the following year on March 15. The rules will be sent to the presiding officers of each chamber who will forward each to a relevant committee chair. The committee may object to the rule by a majority vote. After legislative action, the rule will be sent to governor who may agree or veto. The General Assembly can override the veto, if it chooses. There are provisions for emergency regulations in cases of health and safety.

SB 376 Shafer – 48 **TGFS** Bans consumer credit reporting agencies from charging a fee for placing or removing a security freeze on a customer's account. **Currently, fees of \$3 to \$10 are allowed for each action.**

SB 402 Gooch – 51 **TGFS** Broadband and other communications technologies may be deployed on interstate highway rights of way if enabled by DOT. DOT in consultation with Georgia Technology Authority will plan for, establish, and implement a long-term policy regarding use of interstate highway rights of way and state owned roads for such purposes. Authorizes electric and telephone cooperatives to provide broadband services within their geographical areas. The Department of Community Affairs will determine underserved broadband areas of the state and there shall be a state emphasis on contracting for service to those areas. DCA will establish a Georgia Broadband Ready Community Site designation to cities which adopt policies to have their citizens be served by broadband providers. A model policy will be provided by DCA. Grants, if appropriated, will be available for broadband underserved communities. **This proposal is for expansion of the 5G technology which can move data through boxes mounted on existing utility poles. It does not need the height of existing cell towers. This is a very extensive proposal.**

HB 699 Belton – 112 **TGFS** Documented military firefighting training may be accepted as basic firefighting training. The GA State Firefighters Standards and Training Council may by rule or regulation waive the high school diploma requirement.

HB 809 Hitchens – 161 **TGFS** Georgia State Patrol vehicles may be painted in a solid color. **Currently, they must be two-toned, light grey and dark blue. The single color is not identified in this bill.**

GOVERNMENT – COUNTIES AND CITIES

SB 324 Albers – 56 **TGFS** Cities may contract with any abutting county for the construction and maintenance of bridges within the boundaries of both the city and county. **Currently, cities may contract only with the county in which part of the city lies.**

HB 381 Corbett – 174 **TGFS** Vacant mobile homes can be classified as derelict or intact for purposes of disposal or creation of liens by the local authority governing the land on which it is located. The owner of the land can have the vacant mobile home removed if derelict, or the owner of the mobile home will have a lien imposed for costs to make the home habitable.

SB 397 Watson – 1 **TGFS** Cities and counties may hire state licensed real estate brokers to assist in selling surplus real property.

HB 419 Silcox – 52 **TGFS** Counties and cities can further regulate fireworks between 10 a.m. and midnight for noise. Governor may restrict fireworks in areas of drought. **Currently, local governments may not subject anyone to noise ordinances until 9 p.m.**

HB 475 Harden – 148 **TGFS** Collection receptacles for donations placed on private property must have written notarized permission of the owner or leaseholders. If asked to be removed, the owner of the receptacle must comply within 30 days or a judge may assess a fine of up to \$2500. Local government may opt to remove receptacle from boundaries of local government for up to three years. May sets fines higher for receptacles owned by for-profit entities than those owned by non-profits.

HR 1429 Hanson – 80 **NNS** Creates the 5-member House Study Committee on County Governance to study all forms of county governance to see if citizens are receiving the most efficient, effective, and responsive government and governmental services as possible. Report due 12-1-18.

GOVERNMENT – COURTS AND CRIMES

SB 127 Kennedy – 18 **TGFS** Defines the process for victims to redress rights which may have been violated. Enabling legislation for SR 146.

SR 146 Kennedy – 18 **TO BALLOT** CA to itemize victim rights when committed or attempted to be committed in violation of criminal or juvenile delinquency laws. They are the right to:

- Be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity
- Timely, reasonable and accurate notice of arrest, release, or escape of the accused
- Be present at all proceedings regarding the violation
- Be heard at proceedings regarding the release, plea, sentencing, disposition, or parole of the accused
- Be informed of one's rights.

Enabling legislation is SB 127. ***36 states have encoded these rights in their constitutions.***

SB 315 Thompson – 14 **TGFS** Unauthorized computer access is defined as a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. ***GA is one of three states which has no violation for unauthorized access. A hack of Kennesaw University data was the genesis of this bill.***

SB 327 Albers – 56 **TGFS** A medical examiner's inquiry will no longer be required for patient deaths while untended by a physician. ***The coroner or medical examiner shall decide if an inquiry is needed. A hospice patient probably would not require an inquiry. The GBI's morgue is behind on autopsies, so unnecessary ones will not contribute to the backlog.***

HB 703 Hitchens – 161 **TGFS** Creates the Governor's Office of Public Safety Support to provide counseling and support to those in law enforcement, firefighters, prison guards, first responders. The director is appointed by the governor and shall have experience as a public safety officer. The office shall respond to requests to provide counseling services or any other critical incident support services for any incident including death or other tragedies. May use chaplains, mental health professionals and trained public safety officer personnel. The office shall develop and hold training courses in critical incident stress management. ***Sponsor, a former GA State Patrol officer, indicates there is data to show that such support provided within the first 24 to 72 hours can keep officers from getting PTSD. The suicide rate among first responders is 10 times that of the general population. Counseling may improve that rate.***

HB 803 Willard – 41 **TGFS** Prohibits trafficking of a disabled adult, elder person or resident or of any taking of the property or money of such person for use by someone other than such person. Establishes penalties for such felonies.

HB 890 Fleming – 121 **TGFS** Using an emergency exit after shoplifting shall be a misdemeanor. ***If caught, the shoplifters will be charged with one more crime. Emergency exits frequently have audible alarms which cause people to vacate stores. First responders then have far more obstacles to navigate in trying to find the shoplifters.***

HEALTH

HB 65 Peake - 141 **TGFS** Adds 2 conditions for which THC (marijuana) oil can be prescribed, PTSD and intractable pain. The GA Composite Medical Board shall annually recommend, based on medical research, any additional conditions that may benefit from low THC oil. Creates a 10-member joint study committee to look at all aspects of in-state access to THC oil from acquiring the seeds to plant to destruction of any unused parts of the plant, security, training, distribution. There will be 3 legislators from each chamber and 2 citizens appointed by each presiding officer. Report is due 12-31-18.

SB 118 Unterman – 45 **TGFS** Autism must be covered by insurance up to age 21, currently age 6, for up to \$35,000/year, effective 1-1-19. **Currently, GA has the lowest age for capping coverage in the nation. Medicaid and the State Health Plan already cover autism until age 21.**

SB 321 Tillery – 19 **TGFS** Increases civil penalties for fraudulent Medicaid claims to the federally authorized amounts plus 3 times the damages which the GA Medicaid program sustains because of the act of the claimant. **Refers directly to federal law for the amounts. When federal law changes, state law does not need to be changed. Currently, the amounts in state law are between \$5500 and \$11,000; in federal law between \$11,181 and \$22,363.**

SB 406 Strickland – 17 **TGFS** Owners, employees, and employee applicants of health care entities serving the elderly shall pass a background check. Owners will be fingerprinted.

REVENUE & TAXATION

HR 51 Powell - 171 **TO BALLOT** CA to modify an existing constitutional clause for valuing forest land conservation use under covenant. Forest land must be at least 200 acres and revalued every 3 years beginning with 2016. The state is authorized to make local grants to cities counties and school districts to compensate for the loss of income due to the covenants. For five years, 2019 to 2023, the grants may be higher than the 50% of the loss now in law. The General Assembly may authorize a separate class of property, that used in the production of trees for timber for commercial uses, 'qualified timberland property', the value of which is 175% of forest land for conservation use. The required covenant is now for 10 years, down from 15. Enabling legislation is HB 85.

HB 61 Powell – 171 **TGFS** Retailers (e-tail and catalog sales), with annual sales of \$250,000 in the state or 200 transactions, who do not collect sales tax are to begin collecting and remitting it to the state or notifying each buyer that taxes are due, and filing with the state annually in January of the next year an itemized statement of each buyer in GA and the total amount of purchases made the previous tax year if \$500 or more. Effective 1-1-19. **The collection of state sales tax of 4% is required; local tax collection is not. Think Amazon and other on line retailers. The state lost \$274 million in sales tax revenue due to internet sales; local entities collectively lost \$205 million.**

HB 85 Powell - 171 **TGFS** Qualified timberland property must be at least 50 contiguous acres and producing timber is the primary activity on the property. A separate valuation and appeal process is established for this property. The local assistance grants for 2019 through 2023 shall be 80%, 60%, 40%, 20%, and 0% of the difference of the grant in that year compared to the grant in 2018. Effective 1-1-19. Enabling legislation for HR 51.

HR 238 Watson – 172 **TO BALLOT** CA to put 80% of sales tax revenues from sporting goods stores into a trust fund that will not lapse to be used for protection and preservation of conservation land to protect drinking water sources, water quality, state and local parks and conserve forests, fish, wildlife habitats. Enabling legislation is HB 332. **The constitution requires all funds unspent at year end to be returned to the general treasury. Because the funds in this trust account will not lapse, a constitutional amendment is required.**

HB 332 Watson – 172 **TGFS** Enabling legislation for HR 238.

HB 696 Kelley – 16 **TGFS** A sales tax exemption until 2028 for computer equipment sold or leased for use in high-technology data centers if the firm does not get a tax abatement, if there is a \$20 million bond filed, and if the business does not leave the state or cease to exist during the period. A high-technology data center for a county of 50,000 or

more means \$250 million in aggregate costs for design, construction, and equipment over 10 years; in counties of 30,000 but less than 50,000, the investment required is \$150 million; in counties less than 30,000, the minimum investment is \$100 million.

HB 697 Taylor – 173 **TGFS** A sales tax exemption until 2019 for purchases by non-profit health centers and volunteer health clinics. Current exemptions sunset on 6-30-18. ***The original proposal was for a 5 year extension. The legislature is waiting for information to extend for the additional 4 years.***

HB 729 Harrell – 106 **TGFS** Repeals the law regarding the manner and time of making the state ad valorem tax levy which is no longer levied.

HB 735 Bentley – 139 **TGFS** An income tax credit for expenditures on the maintenance of a railroad track owned or leased by a Class III, short line, railroad as of 1-1-18. Credit is 50% of the total expenditures up to \$3500 per mile of track owned or leased by that railroad. Any credit claimed reduces the costs basis of the track. Effective 1-1-2019. Repealed 1-1-29.

HB 749 Blackman – 146 **TGFS** Excludable from income taxable net income is any income received by a surviving family member of a deceased veteran when such income is based on the veteran's service record. ***GA is one of 9 states that does not exclude military retirement income. It is to be treated much like the Social Security exemption -- taxpayer must be 62 if disabled or 65 to claim the exemption.***

HB 811 Powell – 171 **TGFS** Allows the Department of Revenue to release taxpayer information to contractors to analyze further taxpayer delinquencies. Contractors will be compensated with a portion of the funds collected. All data shared with the contractor is to be kept confidential, and destroyed after the analysis is made.

HB 840 Hitchins – 161 **TGFS** A taxpayer on active military duty in a combat zone shall not incur any penalties or fines for business and occupational taxes not received on time. Such tax and fees are to be paid within 60 days of return from military service.

HB 871 LaRiccia – 169 **TGFS** A sales tax exemption for manufactured homes up to 50% if it is to be converted to real property, when it will no longer be eligible for a Certificate of Removal from Permanent Location.

TRANSPORTATION & DRIVING

SB 342 Harbin – 15 **TGFS** An owner of a motor vehicle cited for not having a revalidation decal attached to the license plate is to be fined only \$50 if the proof of payment is available when appearing in court.

SB 391 Beach – 21 **TGFS** Vehicles owned or operated by a transit authority are exempt from requirements for identification and regulations of motor vehicles.

HB 673 Carson – 46 **TGFS** Use of wireless telecommunication devices while driving is banned unless using GPS. Device shall not be touching the body of the driver while vehicle in motion. Allowed use while operating a vehicle are earpieces, headphone devices, devices worn on the wrist for voice communications or a standalone device. Wireless telecommunication device use while driving will lose 1, 2 or 3 points on the driver's license for respectively the first, second, or third and subsequent violations with fines of \$50, \$100, and \$150. Use exceptions are when: the motor vehicle is lawfully parked; reporting on some type of emergency; used by a public safety employee within the scope of employment; used by a public utility employee or contractor within the scope of employment while responding to a public utility emergency.

HB 717 Kelley – 16 **TGFS** Consumer protection laws for motor vehicles shall also apply to autonomous motor vehicles.

HB 930 Tanner – 9 **TGFS** Creates the 11-member Atlanta-region Transit Link ‘ATL’ Commission to plan and coordinate transit services, establish facilities, and fund throughout the region. Members include the governor who serves as chair, DOT commissioner, CEO of MARTA, Atlanta mayor, Clayton County Commission chair and one mayor from Clayton County, DeKalb CEO and one mayor, Fulton County Commission chair and one additional mayor. It shall determine and prioritize transit projects throughout the region and shall administer the payment of such projects through a sales tax of up to 1% levied by the county in which projects are to be located. The county must call the referendum and levy the tax. Operations will be under MARTA.

LOCAL – FULTON and its CITIES

SB 485 Parent – 42 **TGFS** A homestead exemption for Atlanta for municipal purposes of \$50,000 of assessed value (\$125,000 of fair market value). A local referendum is required on the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot.

HB 820 Beskin – 54 **TGFS** City of Atlanta homesteaded property valuations can only rise 2.6% or the percent of CPI increase, whichever is lower, in any one year. ***Appears to be the same computation for the homestead exemption as for other cities in Fulton County, except for the increase in values allowed. The requirement for the entire county to vote in the referendum is also a departure. Usually only the voters in the affected area are allowed to vote.***

HB 869 Bruce – 61 **TO BALLOT** CA to repeal the prohibition that the Fulton County Industrial Park cannot be annexed to an incorporated city. Local referendum required.

HB 870 Bruce – 61 **TGFS** City of South Fulton annexes the Fulton County Industrial Park, only if the local CA creating it is repealed, HB 869.

SR 882 Jones - 25 **NNS** Creates the 13-member Senate Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport Operations & Authority Creation Study Committee to determine what federal laws and regulations must be complied with to accomplish a transfer of the airport to an authority and what financial obligations must be considered.

HB 929 Efstoration – 104 **TGFS** Atlanta may renew its 1% sales tax for water and sewer projects to correct additional conditions cited by federal authorities.

HB 1036 Martin – 49 **TGFS** Fulton Court Superior Court will require that tax parcel identification number information be included on documents recorded in the real property records of the clerk.

HB 1063 Bruce - 61 **TGFS** City of South Fulton mayor and council members shall be limited in any authority they can exercise over personnel. The charter is changed to give that power to the city manager over department and agency heads, who will then have the authority over personnel within their departments, offices, or agencies. The mayor and council members may hire/fire only the city manager.

HB 1064 Martin - 49 **TGFS** A Fulton County homestead exemption for persons over 65 in the amount of \$60,000 of assessed value, \$150,000 of market value, effective in the 2019 tax year. A local referendum is required on the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot. This exemption is in lieu of any other homestead exemption on the property and must be applied for.

SR 1067 Jones – 10 **NNS** Senate Study Committee on the Financial Impact of Atlanta Annexation on Schools. The members of the committee are **the senators who represent DeKalb County and City of Atlanta. It is to study the financial impact on DeKalb and Decatur** school systems because Atlanta annexed areas in those school systems and the schools, lock stock and barrel, now belong to Atlanta as well as the tax digest associated with those areas and the state school funding for those schools.

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Sally FitzGerald, Capitol Observer

sallyfitz@bellsouth.net

League of Women Voters – Atlanta/Fulton

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