

**LWVAF, BILLS PASSED in 2019--- FINAL**

Bills are **SIGNED** unless otherwise indicated. This report is posted on [www.lwvaf.org](http://www.lwvaf.org).

The governor has 40 calendar days, May 12, to sign or veto legislation. If the governor takes no action, it becomes law anyway. Constitutional amendments and most resolutions need no signature. Bills not passed this year may be considered next year.

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Total bills	121		
Resolutions NNS	14		
CAs	0		
Bills to governor	107	<b>SIGNED</b>	98
		<b>VETOED</b>	9

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**CA** = constitutional amendment. Requires a 2/3s vote in each chamber and a majority vote in the next general election scheduled for November 2020.

**NNS** = Needs No Signature

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**In CHAMBERS**

**BUDGET**

**ct = 2**

**HB 30** Ralston – 7 Amended FY19 budget for the year ending June 30, 2019. All amount in **millions**.

- \*Administrative Services, \$5, injury claim reimbursements. One-time funds
- \*Agriculture, \$20, Emergency disaster relief to farms as a result of Hurricane Michael, additional
- \*Behavior Health & Development Disability, \$1.4, Development Disabilities
  - “ 7.1, Adult Mental Health
  - “ 8.4, Mental Health counselors in every high school
  - “ 7 , Direct Care Support Services in state hospital system
- \*Community Affairs, One GA Authority, \$14, statewide water planning. One-time funds.
- \*Community Health, \$5.7, Replace Medicaid Management Information System, 10% of total needed
  - “ 1.6 consultant to review and analyze Medicaid waiver options
  - “ 2 Hospitals in rural counties, less than 35,000, impacted by Hurricane Michael
  - “ 18.8, state share of Disproportionate Share Hospital Payment
  - “ 9, Medicaid – Aged, Blind & Disabled
  - “ 2, Medicare B premiums
  - “ 5.2, Gene Therapy drug coverage
  - “ 2.5, add 7 long term acute care and 3 intermediate rehab facilities as Medicaid providers
  - “ .6, Medicare drug plan claw back
  - “ 22, Medicaid-Low Income growth
  - “ 5.8, Medicaid Hospital Inpatient prospective Payment System reimbursement model
  - “ (14.5), Revenue loss from hospital provider payments
  - “ 9.3, Mercer School of Medicine, four year campus in Columbus
- \*Education, (18), Charter School adjustment for local effort, i.e. they must raise these funds themselves.
  - “ 86.4, QBE adjustment for growth in enrollment
  - “ 42.1, supplement for state commissioned charter schools
  - “ 69.4, school security, about \$30,000 per school
- \*Human Services, \$10, Out-of-Home care
- \*Natural Resources, \$ 5.6, hazardous water cleanup

- “ 1, Wildlife Endowment Fund, from lifetime sportmen’s license fees
- \*Public Health, \$5, from Super Speeder Funds and reinstatement fees
- \*Revenue, \$ 33.8, Forestland Protection Act
- \*Student Finance Commission, \$ 1.7, Dual enrollment
- “ 2.7, HOPE for private schools  
(1.9) HOPE grants
- \*Technical Colleges, \$ 35, Chattahoochee Tech, establish Aviation Academy at Paulding Airport

**HB 31** Ralston – 7 FY20 budget, beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. All state employees will receive a 2% salary increase which includes local government employees on a state salary scale such as education bus drivers, food service workers, school nurses, sheriffs and their deputies, clerks of the courts, and tax commissioners. Certified teachers got a \$3000 raise. These amounts are spread throughout the departmental budgets. All funds appropriated in FY19 for hurricane relief were removed from the FY20 budget.

FY20 budget: All amount in millions.

- \* District Attorneys, \$2.3, salary adjustments for state paid Das
- \* Superior Courts, \$2, salary adjustments
- \* Behavior Health & Development Disability, \$45, Adult Mental Health Services
- “ 17.8, Direct Care Support Services
- “ 3.2, Adult Development Disability Services
- “ 7.9, Intellectual & Developmentally Disabled, 125 slots
- \* Community Affairs, \$2, GA Broadband Deployment Initiative
- “ (8), Regional Economic Assistance Grants
- “ 2.5, ATLLINK, Atlanta Regional Transit Link Authority
- \*Community Health, \$152, Medicaid-Aged, Blind & Disabled
- “ 72, Medicaid – Low Income
- “ (2), PeachCare
- “ 94, State Health Benefit Plan
- “ 14, Graduate Medical Education
- “ 24, Mercer School of Medicine, for new campus in Columbus
- “ 5.5, Morehouse School of Medicine
- \*Community Supervision, \$1.1, Field Services
- “ 1.9, Office of Transition, Support & Reentry
- \*Corrections, \$12, Health
- “ 3.6, County Correction Institutions for holding state prisoners
- “ 6.6, State Prisons
- \* Defense, \$1.4, Youth Educational Services, 16 Cadre team leaders
- \* Driver Services, \$1, License Issuance
- \* Early Care & Learning, \$16.5, from lottery, for employee raises
- \* Education, \$522, Certified Teacher raises
- “ 79, Equalization grants to low wealth school districts
- “ (115.3), increase in local fair share to be paid for by local school districts
- “ 198, QBE programs
- “ 1, Feminine Hygiene products for low income students
- “ 11.5 Billion **Total** Education Departmental Expenditures
- \*Georgia Bureau of Investigation, \$1.1, Forensic Scientific services
- “ 1.7, Regional Investigative services
- \*Governor’s Office, \$1.5, Census Costs in Office of Planning and Budget
- “ 1.9, GA Data Analytic Center
- \*Human Services, \$11.9, Child Welfare

- “ 1.9, Elder Abuse Investigations and Prevention
- “ 3.4, Elder Community Living services
- “ 4.4, Federal Eligibility Benefit services
- “ 13.8, Out-of-Home Care
- \*Juvenile Justice, \$2.2, Youth Detention Centers
  - “ 4, Regional Youth Detention Centers
- \*Public Health, \$3.6, formula grants to counties
  - 2.6, Adolescent & Adult Health prevention
  - 2.2, Newborn Screening for four additional disorders
- \*Public Safety, \$4.9, field offices and services
  - “ 1.4, Office of Public Safety Support authorized in 2018.
  - “ 2.2, a trouper school for 50 persons
- \*Regents, \$ 2.5, Cooperative Extension services
  - “ 1.4, Cyber Innovation & Training Center
  - “ 1.3, Public Libraries
  - “ 143.0, Teaching
- \*Revenue, \$2.6, Tax Compliance
  - “ 3.1, Taxpayer services
- \*Student Finance, (\$4.2), Dual Enrollment, now limited to 11 & 12 graders
  - “ 10.8, HOPE, Private schools
  - “ 65.9, HOPE, Public schools
- \*Technical Colleges, \$7.9, Technical Education
- \*Transportation, \$12.1, Capital maintenance projects
  - “ 1, Airport aid
  - “ 3, Local maintenance and improvement grants
- \*BONDS, principal amount
  - \$953, in 20 years bonds, which includes **\$150 million for new voting equipment.**
  - 22.9, in 10 year “
  - 127.9, in 5 year “
  - 116.5, debt service, in cash

## CHILDREN

ct = 8

**HB 64** Prince – 127 Reports of child abuse shall be reported to relevant law enforcement including military law enforcement if the parent is on active duty and the child welfare organization shall notify the military installation’s family advocacy program.

**HB 70** Efstrotation – 104 A cleanup of the guardian/conservator process for minors in GA.

**HB 79** Gilliard – 162 Blind persons shall not be discriminated against by the courts, Department of Human Services, or a child-placing agency in matters relating to child custody, guardianship, foster care, visitation, placement, or adoption. The purpose is to prevent children being removed from blind parents or caregivers.

**SB 158** Strickland – 17 Anti-Human Trafficking Protective Response Act. Department of Family and Children Services is authorized to provide emergency care and supervision to any child for up to 7 days without a court order when the child is a victim of trafficking for labor or sexual servitude. Any law enforcement officer, agency, or DFCS shall refer a child suspected of being trafficked to an organization which provides comprehensive trauma informed services. A child may be removed from its home if s/he is a victim of trafficking. A person can be charged with trafficking if they receive anything of value or benefit financially from the sexual servitude of another. A child under age 18 cannot be charged with prostitution.

**HB 228** Welch – 110 Minimum age for marriage is age 17, currently 16. Person must also be an emancipated minor. The older party may not be more than 4 years older, and each member of the couple shall have completed approved premarital education. An earlier marriage with parental consent is repealed. The Department of Public Health is to prepare a fact sheet for public availability for premarital educational providers. If the parties marry in another state and return to Georgia, the age requirements for marriage still apply.

**HB 543** Efrstration – 104 A court may appoint an equitable caregiver to an unrelated person. The caregiver must have established a bond with the child, such as a widowed stepparent and must have behaved as a parent and accept full and permanent responsibility of the child without expectation of any compensation.

**HR 585** Gilliard - 162 **NNS** Creates the 11-member House Study Committee on Gang and Youth Violence. There will be 5 legislative members and the Commissioner on Juvenile Justice or designee, the Commissioner of Human Services or designee, and the State School Superintendent or designee, plus 3 persons who are representatives of community or social services organizations having programs for youth to be appointed by the Speaker. GA has 71,000 gang members or associates. The committee will study and make recommendations on getting sufficient resources to combat gangs which are taking lives and damaging property of GA residents.

**HR 590** Bennett - 94 **NNS** Creates the 8-member House Study Committee on Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal infection (PANDAS). There will be 5 legislative members and a practicing psychiatrist, pediatrician, and public health practitioner. Both conditions cause sudden onset of obsessive-compulsive disorder in children who often develop tics, severe separation or general anxiety, irritability, aggression, personality changes, ADHD, marked deterioration in school performance and developmental regression. It is estimated that 1 in 200 children have PANS or PANDAS. Either can be very expensive to treat and many insurance companies do not cover the costs. Many health care providers are not knowledgeable about the newer, more effective treatments and training is needed. Early treatment can produce marked improvement which may prevent childhood mental illnesses and depression.

## **EDUCATION – PREK – 12**

**ct = 18**

**HB 12** Williams – 145 Every public school must post a sign with the telephone number of the DFCS entity which receives reports of child abuse. The SBOE may adopt rules regarding size of type to be used and location for posting.

**SB 15** Albers – 56 **VETOED** Keeping Georgia’s Schools Safe Act. Every public school, K-12, shall conduct a threat assessment, an evaluation to effectively respond, prevent, or reduce the threat of violence, mass casualty incidents, and other acts of violence, natural disasters, and hazardous materials or radiological accidents. The first shall be done by January 1, 2021, and every 5 years thereafter and approved by local law enforcement. Additional safety issues to be included in the resulting School Safety Plan are risks in school safety zones, for school functions in non-instructional hours, and in school transportation of students. Safety plan drills are required. The principal or designee will act as the school safety coordinator. Safety coaches are optional for schools and may be paid or volunteer. GEMA shall train school safety coaches who shall be current or former members of the armed forces, law enforcement, or fire departments.

**SB 25** Health – 31 A motor vehicle must stop for a school bus unless on a highway with separate roadways for different directions which are separated by a green median, unpaved area, or a physical barrier. ***A bill passed last year also included as a divider a left turn lane. Both drivers and enforcement officers were confused. This proposal cleans up the language.***

**SB 48** Martin – 9 All students in K are to be tested for dyslexia. Students in 1-3 should be tested if they exhibit signs of reading problems. Parents may decline this screening. DOE shall produce an informational handbook for local school

systems to help in determining dyslexia and adopt policies for the identification and assistance of students with dyslexia. Teachers are to be trained in recognition of this condition. DOE shall have a pilot of 3 school districts, one each small, medium, and large, in the fall of 2019. Effective statewide in fall of 2024. **Estimated cost per test is \$8.**

**HR 52** Corbett - 174 **NNS** Encourages the Department of Education, local school districts and schools to consider the profound educational impact of dyslexia has on students and to address the condition.

**HB 59** Belton – 112 Students in military families may enroll in a school based on military orders of the parent, rather than after establishment of residency. Enrollment in a charter school when living outside of the attendance zone is allowed as long as the residence is within the attendance zone when classes start. Gives state charter schools statewide jurisdiction so they are allowed by law to use teleconferencing in board meetings.

**SB 60** Martin – 9 High school students participating in interscholastic sports and their parents are to be provided information on sudden cardiac arrest. Parents shall sign that their student(s) have received this information. The school shall hold an informational meeting each fall. Students who pass out or faint while participating in a sport are to be removed from play and can return only after a health care evaluation.

**SB 67** Burke – 11 Local school districts which have sustained damage or destruction of an educational building caused by a fire or natural disaster where the majority of the building is destroyed or damaged shall be immediately qualified to receive capital outlay funds. **Currently, to be eligible for capital outlay funds, the school district must develop and the SBOE approve a five-year capital outlay plan, the building must be on the annual request for funds, and the local school system has on hand funds to meet its share of the costs. This proposal eliminates the need to revise the capital outlay plan and get SBOE approval for same.**

**HB 68** Carson – 46 No organization which operates, owns, is affiliated with, or a subsidiary of an accrediting organization for K-12 schools can be a student scholarship organization. **The Senate committee added the Education Savings Account, a form of voucher where public money was proposed to support private schools, but the Senate Rules Committee deleted it prior to scheduling of the floor vote. The fiscal note for a similar House bill indicated \$218 million cost in 2029. League of Women Voters OPPOSES vouchers in any form.**

**HB 83** Douglas – 78 **VETOED** Students in grades K-5 shall be given 30 minutes average of recess daily preferably outdoors except on days of inclement weather, physical education, or structured activity time. Local boards of education shall adopt a policy to ensure that recess is safe and scheduled to provide a break in academic learning and shall not be withheld as punishment. Effective fall of 2019.

**SB 83** Mullis – 53 The following courses may be made available to high school students:

- History and Literature of the Old Testament
- History and Literature of the New Testament
- On the Hebrew Scriptures, Old Testament of the Bible
- On the New Testament of the Bible
- On the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament of the Bible

The local board of education may recommend a version of the text to be used for study of the Old or New Testament, but the teacher or the student may choose another version. The material must be presented in an objective manner, and all laws on this subject are to be adhered to. The REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen) scholarship for low-income students is added to the law books. **This scholarship has existed since 2012 but has never been codified. Doing so will ensure it will continue to exist.**

**SB 108** Martin – 9 Courses in computer science are to be required in middle and high school to prepare students for jobs in this industry. Less than .5% of high school graduates have taken a computer science course. The implementation would be over a 3 year period -- in 2022-23, one high school in each district and charter schools serving high school

grades shall have a course in computer science and all middle schools shall have a course in exploratory computer science; in 2023-2024, half of all high schools shall have a computer science course; in 2024-25, all high schools shall have this course. The course could be available through the GA Virtual School. ***This curriculum is much needed for our students. But recent years the legislature resisted requiring curriculum because it was seldom done within graduation requirements or with sufficient time slots available to complete all of them within four years. Also the availability of trained teachers to present the material, or the money to be trained to do so, was absent. Not discussed was the risk of losing teachers who are trained to teach this curriculum to a higher paying job within the information technology industry.***

**HB 130** Nix – 69 The Georgia Foundation for Public Education will become a non-profit (501.c.3) to aid the foundation in carrying out its powers. It will issue an annual report, copies to the chairs of the Education committees. It must declare its donors annually. ***Currently, the Foundation supports programs in the state’s special schools for the blind and deaf. Non-profit 501.c.3 status is required by many donors.***

**SR 266** Black – 8 **NNS** Encourages GHSA to make an assessment of its operations and practices. ***The GA High School Association regulates interscholastic competitions, athletic and academic, of its members. Some are complaining that the rules of GHSA put private schools at a disadvantage.***

**SR 353** Jones – 10 **NNS** Creates the 5-member Senate Study Committee on Community Schools to study the issues, needs, funding, and other aspects of community schools.

**HB 459** Ehrhart – 36 Local boards of education will submit twice yearly the names and drivers license numbers of persons driving school buses. DPS will notify the submitting local board if a drivers license or driving privileges have expired or been cancelled suspended or revoked. The bus driver is also tasked with such notification. The data is not available for public disclosure. Police and fire chiefs may train and equip non-sworn police employees, fire fighters, and volunteers to assist in traffic control. Such persons shall not have arrest powers.

**HB 527** Dickey - 140 QBE weights are changed to reflect appropriations.

**HB 530** Hitchens - 161 Parents may not remove a child from school to evade detection of child abuse and neglect. The local school district will receive a copy of the parent ‘intent to home school’ document which goes to DOE. If a child does not attend for 45 days and no intent to home school has been filed, the local school shall inform DFCS so an assessment can be made if the withdrawal was made to avoid educating the child.

## **EDUCATION – POSTSECONDARY**

**ct = 2**

**SB 91** Hufstetler – 52 Accredited orthodontic schools are exempt from regulation of non-public postsecondary educational institutions. ***Medical schools are already exempt.***

**HB 218** Williams – 145 Students eligible for the Zell Miller scholarship (the one that pays 100% of tuition and fees) who graduated from an ineligible high school or from home schooling must score in the 92nd percentile on the ACT. Eligibility to use HOPE after graduation is 10 years, currently 7. Any student enrolled full or part time and eligible for HOPE will remain eligible for as long as all other criteria are met. ***Currently, the requirement is to score in the 93<sup>rd</sup> percentile.***

## **ELECTIONS & ETHICS**

**ct = 3**

**SR 153** Jones – 22 **NNS** Creates the 5-member Senate Study Committee on Revising Voting Rights for Non-Violent Offenders to define which non-violent felonies should be classified as crimes of moral turpitude. Those whose conviction was not of these crimes can be more fully integrated into society. Report due December 2019.

**SB 177** Brass – 28 Provides directions for how local governmental entities will have district lines drawn. They may bring a proposal, or have one drawn up by the Reapportionment Office before the vote of the local entity for a check to insure guidelines have been met. The bill sponsor must represent all or part of the governmental entity.

**HB 316** Fleming – 121 The voting machine to be used statewide is an electronic ballot marker producing a paper ballot, the official ballot, to be read by an optical scanner and purchased by the state at 1 per 250 voters. The ballot marker devices can be used both for advanced voting and on election day. The DREs cannot be used in both places because the counts are held on the hard disk as well as the memory card. If a voter's identification cannot be verified on an absentee ballot, the data is to be reviewed for data entry errors. The Secretary of State may become a member of a non-governmental entity composed solely of election officials of state, territorial, and DC governments to share information on voters registered. The federal government cannot be a part of this non-governmental organization. A voter may become 'inactive' if they have not voted or had any contact with the county registration division for five years, currently 3. Inactive voters are removed after the next general election. The voter shall be notified by mail at the address on file between 30 and 60 days prior to such removal. Precinct changes can be made 30 days after notice is published in the legal organ, currently 10 days. The notice is to be submitted to the Secretary of State. Polling places cannot be changed within 60 days of an election or primary or within 30 days of a special election or primary except in an emergency. The Secretary of State is authorized to have a pilot program of this new equipment. Each precinct will have at least one electronic ballot marker. Criteria for the new equipment and the display of the ballot the voter will see are defined. Absentee ballots are to be delivered to electors in jail within the county or city. Absentee ballots are not to be rejected if the signatures do not match. The elector shall be sent a provisional absentee ballot. If the ballot is returned prior to election day, the elector may submit a copy of the elector's identification with a signature. The board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk may accept the ballot or reject it if documentation is insufficient. Additional registrar offices may be located at polling places in nongovernmental buildings. The new voting equipment may be used in municipal elections and primaries if the Secretary of State finds it feasible. Voter identification cards are valid as long as the voter lives within the county, not necessarily at the same address. Local election superintendents will have until the second Friday after election day to certify results, currently just one week. The Secretary of State has authority to extend the certification period if it is necessary to complete an audit. Automatic recounts are triggered by less than ½ of 1% of the number of votes separating candidates, currently 1%. Local election superintendents shall conduct precertification audits according to rules set out by the State Election Board. The Secretary of State shall conduct a risk-limiting audit by 12-31-21. ***League of Women Voters supports ballot marker devices, but does not have a position on this omnibus bill. Ballot marker machines are used in 24 states, not necessarily for all voters and are capable of serving persons with disabilities. The state expects to order about 25,000 machines with the \$150 million in bonds in the proposed budget. The new equipment will be tested in a few precincts for municipal elections in 2019 with an expectation that all in-person voters will use it in 2020.***

## GOVERNMENT – GENERAL

ct = 11

**SB 2** Gooch – 51 Authorizes electric membership corporations to offer broadband services. Prohibits cross-subsidization between the corporation's broadband and natural gas services or electric services. ***An effort to bring broadband to rural GA.***

**SB 6** Kirkpatrick – 32 Bans the use of drones to deliver or attempt to deliver contraband to any state or county correctional facility. Drones cannot be used to photograph any place of incarceration without permission. Violation is a felony.

**SB 17** Gooch – 51 Authorizes telephone cooperatives and their broadband affiliates to provide broadband services. ***An effort to bring broadband to rural GA.***

**HB 25** Belton – 112 A military service member with orders to relocate for 90 days or more may cancel services for television, video, or audio programming or internet access or membership in a health spa without penalties.

**SB 66** Gooch – 51 Streamlines the deployment of wireless broadband, 5G, in public rights of way. A very extensive and detailed bill.

**SB 77** Mullis - 53 Anyone who damages, destroys, loses a government owned monument or memorial or removes it without replacing it shall be liable for triple the cost of repair or replacement and possible damages, attorney fees, and court costs.

**SB 170** Thompson – 14 The Honor and Remember Flag is designated as Georgia’s emblem of services and sacrifices of those of the U.S. Armed Forces who gave their lives in the line of duty. Flag maybe displayed on any day veterans are honored and can be displayed only with two other flags on a flagpole (the U.S. flag and the state flag) on any state owned building. Must be manufactured in the U.S. Local governments may display the flag on Flag Day and July 4.

**HB 193** Dunahoo – 30 Banks and credit unions may offer a savings promotion raffle in which deposits of a specific amount or more to a savings account will enter the depositor into a raffle. Depositors must be provided information about the value of the prize, odds of winning, and all other terms of the raffle.

**HB 197** Dempsey – 13 The Office of Planning and Budget shall establish the Georgia Data Analytic Center to securely receive, maintain, and transmit data from various agencies and other entities. The data, which shall not be personally identified, is to be used for state research projects and grant applications.

**HB 213** Corbett – 174 Georgia Hemp Farming Act. This is commercial hemp. Growers will be licensed and processors will be permitted. Both will allow GBI, Department of Agriculture, state and local law enforcement to come onto property at any time to inspect. If the hemp has higher concentrations of THC than allowed, the entire crop will be destroyed. Only three processors will be allowed in the state and each must put up \$100,000 for consideration of a permit. Colleges and universities are asked to research additional uses for hemp and how better to grow it.

**HB 227** Frye – 118 Insurance companies cannot discriminate against a victim of sexual assault.

## **GOVERNMENT – COUNTIES AND CITIES**

**ct = 4**

**SB 95** Robertson – 29 A contract between a local government and a utility for services shall not exceed 20 years, currently 10 yrs.

**HB 311** Welch - 110 **VETOED** Sovereign immunity can be waived for state and local governments, but not school districts, when an aggrieved person has an injury or the imminent threat of injury due to a state law, agency regulation, local ordinance or policy or by an employee within the scope of the employee’s official duties. Does not include monetary relief, attorney fees, or expenses of litigation. ***As examples, one can collect damages if hit by a garbage truck or has property damage because of a government owned storm drain or water main break.***

**HB 315** Newton – 123 Consultants with contracts with counties, cities, local school boards, or other local government entities to prepare or develop specifications or requirement for bids, requests for proposal, procurement orders, or purchase orders shall agree to avoid any appearance of impropriety, follow all policies and procedures of the governmental entity, and disclose any transaction or relationship that could give rise to conflicts of interests.

**HB 349** Martin - 49 Counties may exercise redevelopment powers in incorporated areas within the county when authorized by resolution of the city governing authority.



**SB 1** Parent – 42 The penalty for hit and run accidents without malice aforethought that result in serious injury shall be guilty of a felony and imprisoned for 1-10 years. There is no felony if the parties involved exchange motor vehicle information prior to leaving the accident scene.

**SB 9** Jones – 22 Creates a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature for the crime of intentionally coercing another person over 18 to engage in sexually explicit conduct the first offense. Thereafter, the violation is a felony. Persons in authority over K-12 students, persons detained or on probation or parole, accountability court or pretrial diversion, patients in hospitals, disabled, or persons in therapy and who engage a person in sexual contact or sexually explicit conduct is guilty of sexual assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree as a felony with 1-25 years imprisonment and \$100,000 fine or both. If the victim is under age 16, the prison time is 26 to 50 years with a \$100,000 fine. As a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, it is a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature on the first offence and can be punished for 1-25 years and up to \$25000 fine; a second offense will be punished with 1-25 years imprisonment and up to a \$100,000 fine.

**SB 29** Jones – 22 A sheriff, deputy sheriff, or other person from the sheriff's office shall have the same sovereign immunity as other local government employees and agents for motor vehicle claims.

**SB 31** Rhett – 33 Law enforcement officers will not be liable for any action done while performing any duty at the scene of an emergency while rescuing pet out of a locked vehicle when same is in danger. *Clarifies existing code.*

**HB 118** Morris – 26 False alarms that result in bodily harm or death shall have a penalty of 1-10 years and/or a fine up to \$5,000.

**SB 153** Harper – 7 **VETOED** Trauma scene cleanup shall be done by practitioners who are registered, bonded and insured and have passed a background check. Excludes property owners cleaning up such a scene on their own property and any unpaid assistance they may receive.

**HB 217** Gaines – 117 Employees and agents of syringe Services Programs are immune from civil and criminal liability for possession, distribution, or exchange of hypodermic syringes or needles and related supplies as part of such services.

**HB 239** Efstoration – 104 Enabling legislation for the creation of a Business Court approved by voters in November 2018. The court will be located in Atlanta, have a judge who is a lawyer with experience in business litigation. Provides for clerks, aides, and authority to establish a court system, details how cases can get to this court and any appeals therefrom. Effective 1-1-20.

**HB 281** Anulewiz – 42 Pimping and pandering first violation is a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. The second and subsequent violations are a felony.

**HB 282** Holcomb – 81 Evidence in sexual assault cases can be held 30 years from date of arrest or 7 years from completion of sentence, whichever occurs last, currently 10 years. If no arrest is made, the evidence is to be kept for 50 years.

**HB 353** Carpenter – 4 Staging a motor vehicle collision with the intent to commit insurance fraud is a felony with a penalty of one to 5 years in prison. Aggravated staging of a motor vehicle collision occurs if someone is injured or dies and the penalty is 5 to 20 years in prison. Making a fraudulent claim related to staging a motor vehicle collision can get 1 to 5 years.

**HB 424** Silcox – 52 Gang activity includes trafficking anyone for labor or sexual servitude.

**HB 470** Sainz – 180 Persons charged as first offenders must provide a DNA sample for analysis. **Currently, DNA is not required unless one has been convicted.**

**GOVERNMENT – CAPITOL AND GROUNDS**

**ct = 1**

**HR 1** Ralston – 7 Names the new judicial building being constructed on Capitol Avenue the Nathan Deal Judicial Center. **This building is being built on the site of the former Archives building.**

**GOVERNMENT – EMPLOYMENT**

**ct = 2**

**SB 171** Wilkinson - 50 Increases the state compensation for clerks of the superior court, judges of the probate court, magistrate judges, sheriffs, chief deputy registrars, tax collectors and commissioners. Fulton, Cobb, DeKalb and Gwinnett are not affected because they have local legislation which sets the salaries for these employees. **Local employees required by the state constitution have not had a raise in 13 years, although they have received COLA increases. This bill increases the base salary with all the COLAs and adds another 5%. Effective January 2021.**

**HB 279** Lumsden – 12 **VETOED** Law enforcement officers appointed by the Commissioner of Department of Revenue as a special agent or enforcement officer may use a departmental vehicle while working an off-duty job which requires police powers, have been approved by the commissioner, and has been determined to further the department’s mission and service to the state. The vehicle cannot be used at any political function.

**GOVERNMENT – ENVIRONMENT**

**ct = 4**

**HR 48 Gilliard - 162 NNS** Supports GA’s coastal tourism and fisheries and opposes off-shore drilling and seismic testing.

**HB 201** Hogan – 179 The Live-aboard vessels will be able to anchor at night in estuarine areas of the state’s waterways only where the Department of Natural Resources & Environment designates. Bans the discharge of sewage in these areas except in designated disposal facilities. Vessel operators must keep records for one year which indicate where permanent sewage disposal facilities were used. Facility operators also must record which vessels used the disposal facilities and the date and time of such use. **The issue is to regulate where sewage discharge may occur and reduce the pollution.**

**HB 220** Rogers – 10 The tire disposal fee sunset date is extended to June 2022, currently July 2019. Owners or operators of a solid waste disposal facility will collect a 51 cent/ton surcharge until 6-30-22, currently 75 cents/ton.

**HB 223** Dickey – 140 Excludes air emissions from animal waste from any requirement to report to the Environmental Protection Division of any spill or release. Also released from reporting is the application of pesticides and handling and storage of same by an agricultural producer.

**GOVERNMENT – FEDERAL ISSUES**

**ct = 1**

**HR 51** Morris - 26 **VETOED** Creates the six-member Georgia-North Carolina and Georgia-Tennessee Boundary Line Commission to meet with similar commissions of North Carolina and Tennessee. A faulty survey in 1818 of the boundary has never been corrected. The true boundary is the 35<sup>th</sup> parallel, north of the southernmost bank of the Tennessee. **Georgia wants access to the water in the Tennessee River to meet the needs of its growing population.**

**GUNS**

**ct = 1**

**HB 33** Lumsden – 12 Active duty service members located out of state shall have 6 months after discharge from active duty or from reassignment to this state to renew their gun carry license. Must carry military orders or written verification by commanding officer as to his/her service. ***One wonders why six months for this, when they must get their drivers license renewed within 30 days.***

## HEALTH

ct = 20

**SB 16** Kirkpatrick – 32 The Georgia Composite Medical Board shall administer the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act which permits granting an expedited license to those licensed in other states which are members of the compact. This proposal contains terms of the compact.

**SB 18** Kirkpatrick – 32 Direct primary care agreements between a physician and patient are not insurance.

**HB 62** Cooper – 43 A mammogram showing dense breast tissue will require a notice to the patient and the referring doctor as to its presence and the difficulty it presents of detecting cancer. Other tests may be required.

**HB 63** Cooper - 43 Requires health benefit plans to establish step therapy protocols. ***Step therapy is where cheaper therapies must first be used before insurance will cover more expensive ones.***

**HB 91** Welch - 110 GBI and FBI are to do fingerprint and criminal background checks for hospital and health care facilities for each applicant if they are a part of the GA Long-Term Care Background Check Program, else such applicant checks can use a background check done within the last 12 months.

**SB 99** Harper – 7 Persons applying for the issuance or renewal of a license to hunt, fish, or trap through the on-line licensing system may make an anatomical gift.

**SB 106** Tillery – 19 Authorizes application for a Medicaid waiver before June 30, 2020, to serve patients with incomes up to 100% of the federal poverty level. The governor's bill. ***Currently in GA, Medicaid serves very few adults, mostly children.***

**SB 115** Unterman – 45 Telemedicine licenses are required for physicians licensed in other states to engage in practicing medicine with patients in GA through telemedicine.

**SB 118** Unterman – 45 Telemedicine is a form of Telehealth. Insurance providers shall not exclude a service for coverage solely because the service is provided through telemedicine. Nor shall the insurer require the use of telemedicine in lieu of in-person consultation or contact. Effective 1-1-20.

**SB 121** Walker – 20 The Prescription Drug Monitoring data base must hold date for 5 years, currently 2 yrs. The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Unit is authorized to access the data base for enforcement purposes.

**HR 135** Efstrotation – 104 **NNS** Urges Congress to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits for a person living with ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

**HB 166** Silcox – 52 Genetic counselors are to be licensed.

**HB 187** Dempsey – 13 **VETOED** The Department of Community Health shall conduct a pilot program for treatment and management of obesity under a state health plan, such as for employees, teachers, or public school employees, for 250 persons each year. One may be eligible if each has completed a health risk assessment through a state insurance plan, has a Body Mass Index of 27 with comorbidities or 30 without, and an agreement to enroll in a department approved wellness program during the study. ***This program is being revived.***

**SR 209** Kirkpatrick – 32 **NNS** Commends Grady Memorial Hospital for its commitment to improving the health of our community, for reducing gun violence, providing care and services to victims of violence, and making the Atlanta community a healthier and safer place to live.

**HB 290** Cooper – 43 Establishes a pilot program to provide pre-exposure prophylaxis drug assistance or services to persons at risk of HIV.

**HB 324** Gravely – 67 Georgia Hope Act. Permits the growing, processing, and selling of marijuana for those on the medical Low THC oil registry, about 8400 people. Creates the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission which shall license and oversee all growers, processors, and retailers. Allows 2 licensees to grow marijuana and 2 processors which have extensive background requirements and very high license fees, \$250,000 for growers and \$100,000 for processors. Sites for growing and processing must be 3000 feet away from any school, early care and education location or house of worship. The University of Georgia will be the central research institution, will receive all seeds, plants, and materials and send them to other institutions which are doing research. The General Assembly will create a Medical Cannabis Oversight Committee to review all activity. Each plant and product will be uniquely identified from seed to user to better able to track that the product is going only to an authorized medical user. The product will be sold only to doctors from whom the patients will get it. ***This proposal has extensive elements to ensure that only the authorized users get these products, that growing and production facilities can be inspected at any time, that tracking the product from seed to user does not allow for diversion of any of it. The bill states affirmatively that recreational use of marijuana is still against the law in this state and nation and GA is not about to allow it to happen.***

**HB 345** Cooper - 43 Prohibits the use of restraints on pregnant inmates during labor or delivery unless there is reason to believe the inmate may injure herself or others.

**HB 374** LaHood – 175 A certified medication aide in an assisted living community with a certificate in good standing may administer liquid morphine upon a hospice physician’s order to a patient in hospice. The initial dose is to be administered by a RN. ***Liquid morphine is frequently given during the last 24 hours of life to ease pain and anxiety.***

**HB 481** Setzler – 35 Abortions cannot be performed if a heartbeat has been detected unless the fetus is not viable or the life of the mother is at risk, and if a police report is filed, rape or incest. Unborn children shall be counted in state population based determinations and may be claimed as a dependent on the parents’ state income tax filing. ***League of Women Voters OPPOSES bills that do not allow for the woman to make health decisions for herself with advice from her medical professional and significant other.***

**HR 589** Newton - 123 **NNS** Creates the 9-member House Study Committee on Maternal Mortality. Membership shall be 7 legislators of which two are African American women and 2 members of the GA Maternal Mortality Review Commission. The committee will review the data that suggest women in the U.S. are more likely to die of childbirth or pregnancy related causes than women in other high-income countries; GA is among the 10 highest states in maternal mortality; 60% of maternal deaths are preventable; and current GA Maternal Mortality Review Commission, which has been meeting for 3 years, needs more data and time to determine their recommendations.

## REVENUE & TAXATION

ct = 12

**HB 35** Watson – 172 A sales tax exemption to any nonprofit which provides poultry diagnostic and disease monitoring services. ***A fiscal note indicates revenue loss to the state is \$150,000. This exemption is primarily directed to a lab in Gainesville which gets \$3 million/year in the state budget. So the exemption makes the appropriation go further.***

**SB 65** Harper – 7 The transfer of a motor vehicle title between legal entities, each at least 50% owned by the same person, is not a taxable event.

**SB 120** Albers - 56 **VETOED** An economic analysis issued by the state auditor shall be required for any bill that provides a tax incentive or extends an existing tax incentive, defined as an exemption, exclusion or deduction. The analysis shall be an estimate for 5 years of the net effect on the net change in state revenue, state expenditures, economic activity, public benefits. The analysis must be attached to the bill for any further action in the General Assembly or for it to take effect, if passed. As of May 1, the chairs of House Ways & Means and Senate Finance may each request up to three economic analyses to be done by December 1. Each request is to be limited to one provision and shall specify an exemption, exclusion, or deduction from the state tax base, or credit against a tax, deferral of a tax, rebate of taxes paid, tax abatement, or preferential tax rate to be analyzed.

**SB 138** Martin - 9 Disabled first responders will get a free license plate, an income tax exemption for disability payments, and an exemption for title ad valorem tax, TAVT, up to \$50,000 for all autos owned. First responders include law enforcement officers, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians all of whom were injured in the line of duty. Authorizes a license plate to recognize the Sickie Cell Foundation of GA.

**HB 168** Taylor of 173 A sales tax exemption to volunteer nonprofit health centers should be extended for five additional years. ***No fiscal note was attached because the exemption already exists and is merely being extended.***

**HB 182** Harrell - 106 E-retailers must collect sales tax if they do \$100,000 a year business with Georgia residents, currently \$250,000. They are no longer required to notify customers of the need to pay the use tax if sales tax is not collected.

**HB 183** Harrell – 116 Any taxpayer who fails to file a property tax return or one whose return was returned shall have appeal rights.

**SB 216** Mullis - 53 Local governments may collect prepayments of ad valorem (property) taxes. Taxpayers shall exercise a prepayment agreement with the local government for no more than the amount of tax levied in the prior year. Prepayment can also be made in installments if the agreement stipulates. Effective 7-1-19.

**HB 221** Rogers – 10 The GA World Congress Center limit on bonded indebtedness is increased to \$500,000,000, currently \$400 million.

**HB 266** Weidower - 119 Doubles the income tax deduction for contributions to 529 plans to \$4000 per year per beneficiary. Effective tax year 2020.

**HB 314** Stephens – 164 Provides for titling of watercraft to use GA waters except vessels owned by the federal government. Owner shall present a bill of sale to demonstrate that the sales tax has been paid.

**HB 344** Gambill – 15 A property tax exemption for all real property owned by a non-profit held for building or repairing single-family homes to be financed by persons using no-interest loans. Statewide referendum required. ***Habitat for Humanity?***

## **TRANSPORTATION & DRIVING**

**ct = 7**

**SR 24** Beach – 21 **NNS** The Senate asks that 10 cents of the 18.4 cents of federal motor fuel tax be kept in the state and not sent to Washington to be used for projects within the state. Claims the projects could be streamlined and constructed faster than currently done when money has to be asked for from the federal fund.

**SB 103** Davenport – 44 **VETOED** Airports owned, controlled, or operated by a county, city or other political subdivision, shall provide at least 2 priority parking spaces for disabled veterans whose vehicle has a veterans license plate.

**SB 227** Martin – 9 A special license plate for the GA Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. A distinctive logo or emblem shall be designated for the license plates of an alternative fueled vehicle owned by any manufacturer, distributor, or manufacturer headquarters. Vehicles with this license plate can use the HOV and other preferential use lanes. ***Vehicles must still have two or more persons to use such lanes.***

**HB 307** Powell - 32 Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act. Outlines an extensive procedure for dealing with motor vehicles that are left on roads and public rights of way, private property, or at repair shops. Costs of towing, storing, selling, and getting information on the owner(s) can be recovered from the sale of the motor vehicle or paid by the owner.

**HB 339** McClain – 100 Special license plates are authorized for the GA Aquarium, Autism Alliance of GA, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and Alabama A & M University. Fees collected will support the designated organizations.

**HR 368** Smith – 134 **NNS** Urges construction of I-14 which will go from Killeen, TX to Augusta, GA. Much of the infrastructure currently exists in GA as the Fall Line Freeway.

**HB 454** Tanner – 9 Electric bicycles are classified as: Class I, equipped with a motor which assists the rider only while pedaling and not over 20 mph; Class II, has a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle but is not capable of reaching 20 mph; Class III, has a motor which assists the rider while riding but not over 28 mph, must have a speedometer, cannot have either a rider or passenger under age 15, and both rider and passenger must wear a helmet. Mopeds cannot be used on highways without a drivers license or by a person under age 16. Rider needs a helmet. Bicycles may go on scene trails, bicycle lanes, and streets. Mopeds may not go on scene trails or bicycle lanes.

## **LOCAL – FULTON and its CITIES**

**ct = 12**

**SR 86** Beach – 21 **NNS** Recognizes the North Fulton Chamber of Commerce which has members from Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell, and Sandy Springs.

**SR 155** James – 35 **NNS** Recognizes the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce on its 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

**SB 250** Jordan – 6 Fulton County State Court shall have the same number of judges as the combined number of judges in the Civil Court of Fulton County and the Criminal Court of Fulton County. The chief judge may appoint, with a majority vote of the other judges, up to four people to serve as pro tempore judges, pro hoc judges, and judicial officers on a part-time basis.

**HB 329** Metze – 55 City of South Fulton may exercise all redevelopment and other powers granted under the GA Constitution.

**HB 423** Bazemore – 63 A homestead exemption for the City of South Fulton municipal services which is limited to an increase of 3% or the percent of inflation from the base year, the lowest of 2016, 2017, or 2018. It does not apply to bonds or school district taxes, or county taxes. A referendum is required in November of 2019. Effective for tax years 2020 and beyond.

**HB 430** Martin – 49 The homestead exemption for municipal services in Alpharetta for those age 65 and over shall no longer have any income restriction. Local referendum required.

**HB 431** Martin – 49 The homestead exemption for Alpharetta for city taxes is increased to \$45,000, currently \$40,000. Referendum required.

**HB 460** Robichaux – 48 The City of Roswell is authorized to levy an excise tax up to 8% on any room in a hotel, motel, inn, etc. Proceeds to be used for promoting tourism, conventions, and trade shows, and tourism product development.

**HB 611** Jackson – 64 City of South Fulton is authorized to levy an excise tax on hotel/motel accommodations. Revenue is to be spent on promoting tourism, conventions, and trade shows, and tourism product development.

**HB 612** Dreyer – 59 A homestead exemption in Hapeville for city purposes of \$20,000 (fair market value of \$50,000) for property owners age 65 and over, veterans, and the disabled. Local referendum required. This exemption is in lieu of any other exemption.

**HB 614** Dreyer – 59 Hapeville current property tax exemption of \$10,000 is increased to \$15,000 (fair market value \$37,500). Local referendum required.

**HB 656** Jackson - 64 The chairperson of the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections shall be chosen by the county commission. ***Currently, the law provides that the Fulton County legislative delegation shall choose the board chairperson, but to date has never done so. The current chair was chosen by the county commission prior to the change in the law which was prompted by significant disappointment of the local delegation in the performance of the previous chairs.***

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