

29 March 2019

## **LWVAF, Report from the Capitol, Week 11**

It's almost over. This week the General Assembly completed Day 39. It will adjourn sine die next Tuesday. Next week, another report covering the final passage of bills on that date. The League of Women Voter of Atlanta-Fulton will have a Legislative Reception later this spring to review all the bills which passed. Look for that announcement.

The Senate does not set a calendar for Day 40. It reserves that day to finish business left undone on the calendar for Day 39 and to work on conference committees and bills which need to be reconciled with the House. The House calendar(s) for the last day are really skeletal, initially. They develop supplemental calendars multiple times during the day.

Another process that shows up at this time of the session is the amending of bills that are not likely to get on a calendar to those that will more likely make it. This report shows this by showing the bill number added thereto in brackets, [ ], followed by the description.

The budget was agreed to and is on the governor's desk. The teachers got the \$3000 raise the governor recommended. The state will get new voting equipment. Hurricane Michael victims may get more state help in recovery and DOT can continue to pour cement.

The school voucher bill was stripped off the innocuous bill to which it was attached. May it RIP, but it probably won't.

The House has chosen not to take over the Atlanta airport, but instead to oversee its operations and those of nine other commercial airports around the state, in much the same way it oversees MARTA through the MARTOC committee , Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Oversight Committee. Perhaps the Senate will agree with this change.

This report is organized somewhat differently. Hopefully, it will help make the process more useful.

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**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 2020.

**DV** = Differing Versions

**NNS** = Needs No Signature

**TGFS** = To Governor for Signature

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### **In CHAMBERS – TO GOVERNOR FOR SIGNATURE**

#### **BUDGET**

**HB 31** Ralston – 7 **TGFS** 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 get 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.

#### **CHILDREN**

**HB 64** Prince – 127 **TGFS** 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.

**SB 158** Strickland – 17 **TGFS** 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.

## **EDUCATION – PREK – 12**

**HB 12** Williams – 145 **TGFS** 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 48** Martin – 9 **TGFS** 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.

**SB 60** Martin – 9 **TGFS** High school students participating in interscholastic sports and their parents are to be provided information on sudden cardiac arrest. Parent 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 playing and can return only after a health care evaluation.

**HB 83** Douglas – 78 **TGFS** Students in grades K-5 shall be given 30 minutes average of recess daily preferably outdoors except on days when they receive 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 108** Martin – 9 **TGFS** 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. ***In recent years the legislature resisted requiring curriculum because it was seldom done within graduation requirements or the 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 **TGFS** 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 status is required by many donors.***

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

**HB 530** Hitchens - 161 **TGFS** 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**

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

**HB 218** Williams – 145 **TGFS** 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.*

## **GOVERNMENT – GENERAL**

**SB 6** Kirkpatrick – 32 **TGFS** 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 **TGFS** Authorizes telephone cooperatives and their broadband affiliates to provide broadband services. *An effort to bring broadband to rural GA.*

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

**HB 193** Dunahoo – 30 **TGFS** 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 **TGFS** 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 227** Frye – 118 **TGFS** Insurance companies cannot discriminate against a victim of sexual assault.

## **GOVERNMENT – COUNTIES AND CITIES**

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

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

## **GOVERNMENT – COURTS AND CRIMES**

**SB 1** Parent – 42 **TGFS** 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 29** Jones – 22 **TGFS** 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.

**HB 118** Morris – 26 **TGFS** 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 **TGFS** 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 **TGFS** 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 281** Anulewiz – 42 **TGFS** A pimping and pandering first violation is a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. The second and subsequent violations are a felony.

## **GOVERNMENT – ENVIRONMENT**

**HB 201** Hogan – 179 **TGFS** 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 reduce the pollution from sewage discharge.***

## **GUNS**

**HB 33** Lumsden – 12 **TGFS** 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 drivers license renewed within 30 days.***

## **HEALTH**

**SB 16** Kirkpatrick – 32 **TGFS** 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.

**HB 91** Welch - 110 **TGFS** GBI and FBI are to do fingerprints 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 106** Tillery – 19 **SIGNED** 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 **TGFS** 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 **TGFS** 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.

**HB 187** Dempsey – 13 **TGFS** 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.***

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

**HB 481** Setzler – 35 **TGFS** 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 reports is on file, rape or incest. Unborn children shall be counted in state population based determinations and can be claimed as a dependent on the parents' income tax filing. ***League of Women Voters OPPOSES measures that do not allow for the woman to make health decisions for herself with advice from her medical professional and significant other.***

## **REVENUE & TAXATION**

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

**HB 182** Harrell – 106 **TGFS** 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 344** Gambill – 15 **TGFS** 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?***

**SB 216** Mullis - 53 **TGFS** 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 **TGFS** The GA World Congress Center limit on bonded indebtedness is increased to \$500,000,000, currently \$400 million.

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

## **TRANSPORTATION & DRIVING**

**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.

## **LOCAL – FULTON and its CITIES**

**HB 329** Metzger – 55 **TGFS** City of South Fulton may exercise all redevelopment and other powers granted under the GA Constitution Article IX, Section II, Paragraph VI(b).

**HB 423** Bazemore – 63 **TGFS** 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 612** Dreyer – 59 **TGFS** 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 **TGFS** Hapeville current property tax exemption of \$10,000 is increased to \$15,000 (fair market value \$37,500). Local referendum required.

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### **In CHAMBERS – DIFFERING VERSIONS TO BE RESOLVED**

#### **CHILDREN**

**HB 79** Gilliard – 162 **DV** 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.

**HB 228** Welch – 110 **DV** 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.

#### **EDUCATION – PREK-12**

**HB 59** Belton – 112 **DV** Students in military families may enroll in a school based on military orders of the parent, rather than after establishment of residency. **Senate adds:** allows enrollment in a charter school when living outside of the attendance zone as long as the residence is within the attendance zone when classes start. [HB 558] Gives state charter school statewide jurisdiction so they are allowed by law to use teleconferencing in board meetings.

**SB 68** Sims – 12 **DV** Local school board members must be exposed to ‘financial management’ in their required training. A candidate for reelection to the board must have completed all prior annual training requirements. The financial status of the local school system must be reviewed at each regular school board meeting. The SBOE is to create a template for such review. The Department of Audits and Accounts shall designate local school systems with 3 consecutive years of reported irregularities or budget deficits as ‘high risk’ school districts; those with irregularities or deficits for 1 or 2 consecutive years are to be labeled moderate risk. A corrective action plan is to be developed within 120 days. School districts cannot be approved for a flexibility contract if ‘high risk’ without a corrective action plan. Office of Student Achievement shall monitor each local school system’s financial stability. Oath of school superintendents to include a promise to manage the finances of the school system, and the superintendent is to report to the board during each monthly meeting the financial status. The superintendent must complete all financial management and governance trainings. Newly elected local board members are to be given guidance and training about the school system’s audit findings and risk status. Charter schools and charter systems have these same requirements. **House adds:** (HB 32) ) The Chief Turnaround Officer will report to the State School Superintendent, currently directly to the State Board of Education. Renames ‘turnaround coach’ to ‘transformation specialist’. Changes thrust of training to school district level rather than individual schools. Adds ‘creating prototypes of best practices’ to

the duties of Chief Turnaround Officer. Creates the GA Turnaround collaborative to advise the Chief Turnaround Officer, composed of several agency heads and a few legislators. Teachers in turnaround schools may get a \$7500 stipend, 2/3 paid by the state and the rest by the local school system, if each agrees to work 3 years in the school and to teach curricula designated by the Chief Turnaround Officer. The stipend may be converted to a permanent salary step after the three years of the Turnaround Officer and State Board of Education approval. (HB 86) Teachers may file a complaint regarding personnel performance evaluation ratings and any procedural deficiencies of the local board of education or charter school which does the evaluation. (HB 464) The local board of education must have a period for public comment at every meeting. No prior notice prior to the meeting shall be required of the speaker. The chair of the board may limit the length of time for anyone's comments and the number of people speaking for or against a specific issue. **Currently, there are 17 'high risk' school districts.**

SB 83 Mullis – 53 **DV** 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. **House adds:** (HB 562) 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 subject to appropriations.**

## **GOVERNMENT – GENERAL**

SB 2 Gooch – 51 **DV** 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.**

HB 25 Belton – 112 **DV** 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.

HB 213 Corbett – 174 **DV** 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.

## **GOVERNMENT – COUNTIES AND CITIES**

HB 311 Welch - 110 **DV** 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 **DV** 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.

## GOVERNMENT – COURTS AND CRIMES

SB 9 Jones – 22 **DV** 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.

SB 31 Rhett – 33 **DV** 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.**

SB 110 Stone - 23 **DV In Conference Committee** Establishes the Business Court which was enabled by passage of the constitutional amendment in November 2018. **The fiscal note indicates it will take \$300,000 to establish the court and operating expenses will be about \$1 million/year. It expects to handle several hundred cases per year.**

HB 353 Carpenter – 4 **DV** 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 **DV** Gang activity includes trafficking anyone for labor or sexual servitude.

## HEALTH

HB 63 Cooper - 43 **DV** 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 345 Cooper - 43 **DV** 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 324 Gravely – 67 **DV In Conference Committee** Permits the growing, processing, and selling of marijuana for those on the Low THC oil registry, about 8400 people. Outlines all the licensing and oversight on growers, processors, and retailers. Allows 10 licensees to grow marijuana and 60 dispensaries to sell oil to those holding a medical card. A very extensive bill. **Senate:** Allows 2 licensees to grow marijuana and 10 dispensaries to sell oil. Creates a state commission to bring drugs into state from elsewhere and sell to eligible Georgians.

## REVENUE & TAXATION

SB 119 Albers - 56 **DV** An economic analysis issued by the state auditor shall be required for any bill that provides any tax incentive or extends an existing tax incentive, defined as an exemption, exclusion or deduction. The analysis shall be an estimate for 10 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.

SB 138 Martin - 9 **DV** Disabled first responders will get a free license plate, an income tax exemption for disability payments, and a property tax exemption for themselves and surviving spouse or minor child for as long as each shall live or the spouse remarries. Includes law enforcement officers, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians all of whom were injured in the line of duty.

HR 164 Powell – 171 **DV** CA to have fees or taxes collected for a specified purpose be used for that purpose. Such revenues sources shall have a ten-year duration. If the revenues are 1% or more of the total state revenues, the funds cannot be dedicated. **The state budget is currently about \$26 billion; 1% is \$260 million.) Often, these fees/taxes are used to keep the state in business during recession years rather than for the purpose for which they were imposed or they are deposited in the general fund rather than a specific fund and simply not used for their declared purpose.**



HB 314 Stephens – 164 **DV** 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.

## **TRANSPORTATION & DRIVING**

SB 131 Jones – 25 **DV** Creates the GA Major Airport Authority to run the Atlanta airport. The governance is set up like that for the GA Ports Authority which runs the harbors and the GA World Congress Center. It will have a board of trustees with strong business experience with two representatives from Clayton County in which 70% of the airport lies. The city has until 7-1-2020 to fix the procurement problems exposed at the airport. If not successfully done, the bill will go into force. Vote was along party lines. **House:** Creates an oversight committee for the 10 commercial airports in the state. Exempts jet fuel tax for 20 years, which benefits Delta Airlines the most, and imposes a modest excise tax, the proceeds which will be used to draw down federal money for improvements at small airports. ***The Atlanta airport is the largest economic engine in the state with a \$64 billion impact.***

SB 227 Martin – 9 **DV** A special license plate for the GA Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. **House adds:** (HB 56) 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 **DV** 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.

## **LOCAL – FULTON and its CITIES**

SB 250 Jordan – 6 **PASSED** Senate H.Local Legislation  
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 611 Jackson – 64 **PASSED** House S.State & Local Government  
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 656 Jackson - 64 **PASSED** House S.State & Local Government  
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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