

SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



2017 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Georgia General Assembly adjourned its 2017 session on March 30. There were 296 Senate bills introduced this year and 640 introduced in the House. Forty-seven percent of bills introduced were passed.

Going into the 2017 legislative session, which began January 9, legislation that would have made casino gambling legal in Georgia dominated the news. However, casino legislation fizzled early on.

While there was no one theme or debate that emerged in 2017, state legislators passed a hodgepodge of tax breaks. There were at least 10 tax bills that will likely reduce the state's revenue. The approved measures include a laundry list of tax breaks for special interests, from large music productions and yacht owners to a reduction on leased car taxes. The Georgia Budget and Policy Institute estimated a reduction of \$483 million in state revenue over the next five years.

The state legislature passed a brewery bill that allows breweries and distilleries to sell alcohol for on and on-site consumption. Legislators also made a few changes to the CDB Oil law that adds conditions to the approved usage list, allows those with out-of-state prescription to possess CDB Oil in Georgia and reduced the frequency of physician reporting of THC levels in their patients.

Efforts to tack on so-called "religious liberty" language to several bills were defeated. This legislative language emerges each year and would essentially sanction discrimination. However, a measure that allows the state to withhold funding from Sanctuary Campuses did pass.

Taking a swing at the growing number of public protests, a bill dubbed "Back the Badge" increases the penalties for certain assaults.

Democrats led the charge to defeat a House bill that would have continued race-based gerrymandering. The proposed legislation drew sharp criticism from many Georgians because the proposed changes aimed to protect incumbents without public hearings and impact districts now trending to be more competitive.

Senate Democrats were also successful in passing legislation that will improve school resource officer training and resources. Another measure makes it illegal to

photograph a person under, or through, clothing (known as “upskirting”) and places the human trafficking hotline notice in more places. A Democratic-led effort to improve the legal process for those involuntarily committed to have her or his firearm permit rights restored passed the Senate.

Senate Democrats introduced the Omnibus Georgia Civil Rights Act that would ensure equal protection for all Georgians, Family and Medical Leave Expansion, a measure to increase the state’s Minimum Wage and a number of environmental and health protection measures that were not given a committee hearing. The Republican-controlled state legislature failed to address Medicaid Expansion that would provide at least 500,000 Georgians vital health care services.

Lead testing for school water and the Democratic proposal to create Community Schools passed the Senate but did not pass out of the House.

This was the first year of Georgia’s two-year legislative cycle. Bills not passed are sent back to committees and are eligible for a hearing again during the 2018 legislative session. You can read more about the 2017 legislative highlights below and use the table of contents to find bills by subject matter or the index to look up bills by bill number.

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Notable Legislation Passed

The Good

Bills that Passed Both Chambers

SB 15 (Rhett, 33rd) – Weapons Carry Permit for Retired Law Enforcement Officers

This legislation would allow retired law enforcement officers that are collecting retirement and either have served ten of the last twelve years or have served for any ten year period and retired due to disability to obtain free weapons carry permits. Officers would be required to affirm under oath that that they meet all residency requirements when applying. Current law allows all officers that have served ten of the last twelve years to obtain free permits.

SB 16 (Watson, 1st) – Lower THC amount in CBD Oil and Add More Conditions

This legislation would add severe Tourette's, autism for adults and severe autism for minors, Epidermolysis bullosa (genetic disorder that causes skin and mucous membrane blisters, severe or end state Alzheimer's, severe or end state AIDS, and severe or end state Peripheral neuropathy (nerve damage resulting from a variety of conditions) to the list of diseases for which CBD oil may be prescribed and allow CBD oil to be prescribed to people in hospice care. It would also allow people with out of state prescriptions to possess CBD oil in Georgia for 45 days and remove the one-year residency requirement to be eligible. Physicians would only be required to report on CBD usage semiannually instead of quarterly and would report of THC levels in their patients.

SB 85 (Jeffares, 17th) – Off Premises Beer Sales by Breweries and Brewpubs

This legislation would allow breweries to sell up to 3,000 barrels (93,000 gallons) of beer for on and off premises sales. Off premises sales would be limited to 288 oz (24 12oz beers) per person per day at any time that retail sales are allowed in the jurisdiction. Distilleries would be able to sell 500 barrels (26,500 gallons) of liquor for on and off premises sales. Off premises sales would be limited to 2.25L per person per day. Breweries and distilleries would be responsible for the same taxes as retail stores.

It would allow brewpubs to sell beer and wine for off premises consumption if authorized by local ordinance.

SB 104 (James, 35th) – Require Governments to Post Human Trafficking Hotline, Upskirting, Vehicle Hijacking, Drug Update, and Fake Insurance Cards

This bill would require government entities to post the human trafficking hotline model notice in buildings that they own or lease and post a link to the notice on their website and repeal the sunset on the notice in general.

It also would make it illegal to film or photograph a person under or through his or her clothing without consent and make it illegal to share that image or recording. Violation would be punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of no more \$100,000, or both.

This legislation would create a lesser crime of second degree vehicular hijacking when a person steals a car in the immediate presence of the driver without using a weapon. A first offence would be a felony of 1-10 years, a second would be 3-15 years, and a subsequent offence would be 5-20 years. The 10-20 year sentence for a first offence of first degree hijacking with a weapon and life for a subsequent offence would remain a mandatory minimum.

This legislation would elevate non-prescription possession of fentanyl to Schedule 1 and treat it the same as heroin for criminal purposes.

This legislation would increase the penalty for manufacturing or distributing false I surface documents to be a felony for the first offense and increase the sentence from a sentence of 1-3 years to be a sentence of 2-10 years.

SB 149 (Jones, 10th) – School Resource Officer Training, Municipal Probation Officers, and Inmate Regulations

This legislation would require the POST Council to create a 40 hour training program for school resource officers and declare it a best practice for schools to send their school resource officers to be trained.

It would also allow municipal probation officers to serve without completing a POST certified course, but they would not be able to make arrests without completing the course. Municipal probation officers would only be able to arrest people they are supervising unless they are also a peace officer.

It would not allow inmates to possess tobacco without approval of the jailer or warden, and it would be illegal to provide inmates tobacco without approval. It would also prohibit inmates in prisons from having prepaid debit cards and prohibit people from providing debit cards to inmates. Violations related to jails would be misdemeanors; violations related to prisons would be felonies.

It would could frivolous federal filings as well as state filings when determining whether a prisoner has filed three of more frivolous actions and therefore loses his or her ability to file for free as a pauper.

SB 201 (Miller, 49th) – Use Sick Leave for Family Leave

This legislation would require employers that offer sick leave to let employees use up to five days of sick leave per year to care for family members. It would only apply to employees working 30 hours a week and employers of more than 25 employees that don't offer stock options. It would not create a cause of action. It would sunset July 1, 2020.

HB 86 (Oliver, 82nd) – Mandate Reporting of Suspected Human Trafficking

This legislation would add human trafficking to the list of suspected offenses that mandated reporters are required to report.

HB 154 (Cooper 43rd) – Dental Hygienists

This legislation would allow dentists in private offices to authorize up to four dental hygienists with at least two years' experience to perform sealants, oral prophylaxis and assessments, fluoride treatment, oral hygiene instruction, and X-rays without supervision so long as the dentists performs the initial examination, examines the patient at least once a year, and notifies the patient that he or she will be examined by a hygienist.

Hygienists with at least two years' experience would be able to perform fluoride, sealant, and oral prophylaxis treatments in Title I schools with parental approval and oral hygiene instruction without needing parental approval. They would be able to perform fluoride, sealant, and oral prophylaxis in hospitals and other in-patient facilities so long as emergency care is available. They would be required to provide notice to the patient of their authorizing dentist, any issues observed, and a recommendation to see a dentist unless a dentist had initially examined the patient.

Hygienists employed by DPH and county boards of health would be able to work without direct supervision at approved offsite locations in addition to the currently allowed DPH, county board of health, and Department of Corrections locations.

The Board of Dentistry would report on the number of licenses issued to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on January 1, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

HB 206 (Kelley, 16th) – Increase Medicaid PNA and Eliminate Medicaid Recoupment for Clerical Errors

This legislation, subject to appropriation, increase the monthly personal needs allowance for Medicaid recipients in nursing homes to \$70

It would also provide that merely making a clerical error when filing for Medicaid reimbursement is not fraud and does not subject the provider to recoupment of funds so long as the provider doesn't have a history of repeated errors and the error did not result in an improper payment, such as a duplicate payment or a

payment to the wrong person. Recoupment for improper payments would be limited to the amount paid.

HB 251 (Ealum, 153rd) – Allow Inmates Assisting Disaster Cleanup to Enter Private Property

This legislation would allow employees of the Department of Corrections and inmates under their supervision to enter private property to assist with property protection, debris removal, service restoration, and infrastructure repair during a declared state of emergency.

HB 413 (Parsons, 44th) – Pipeline Permitting

This legislation would require any construction of a new pipeline or extension of an existing one to receive a permit from EPD. Applicants would provide a map, environmental impact statement, proof of financial responsibility, and information on geologic features, areas of historical significance, and impacted endangered species. Applicants would have to provide notice to all landowners whose properties are within 1,000 feet of the proposed pipeline and must run an ad in the local legal organ. The EPD director would consider the application, environmental impacts, potential alternative siting, and comments for the public and affected local governments. Affected landowners may intervene to oppose the pipeline. Others would be able to petition for a separate hearing to challenge the issuance of the permit on the grounds that they are adversely affected within 30 days.

New pipelines and pipeline extensions that seek to use eminent domain would require a certificate of need from GEFA. Prior to initiating eminent domain, the company would have to specifically notify the landowners that they have statutory rights. The CON application must include siting details, what interests will be served, and anything else required by GEFA. The GEFA director would determine whether the pipeline is necessary to meet demand and whether the benefit outweighs the environmental risks.

It would eliminate the State Commission on Petroleum Pipelines that was created last year to examine pipeline construction and eminent domain laws. It would also eliminate the moratorium that is set to end June 30, 2017.

HB 453 (Dreyer, 59th) – Add Chief Magistrate Judge to Law Library Boards

This legislation would add the chief judges of magistrate court to the board of county law libraries.

HB 485 (Glanton, 75th) – Eliminate Referendum for Liquor Manufacturing and Distribution

This legislation would allow local governments to authorize the manufacture and distribution of liquor without needing a referendum. Package sales would still require a referendum.

HB 510 (Smyre, 135th) – Repeal Population-Based Alcohol Sales Distance

This legislation would repeal a population provision that would measure the distance from a church or school that alcohol can be sold from the property lines instead of the buildings in some medium size counties.

Democratic Bills that Passed Senate but not House

SB 29 (Fort, 39th) – Lead Testing in Schools

This legislation would require public and private schools and child care learning centers to conduct testing on drinking water outlets for lead contamination and to remedy any lead contamination identified by June 30, 2019. If contamination is found, the school must notify parents and staff, place the test results and remediation plan on the school website, and submit the test results and remediation plan to the Department of Public Health. It would direct the Department of Public Health to establish rules and regulations for testing and remediation of lead contamination in schools.

SB 30 (Fort, 39th) – Community Schools

This legislation would create a grant program to establish UP Community Schools that would serve as comprehensive service delivery centers that offer academic, health care, and community involvement programs in addition to existing classroom instruction

SB 99 (Parent, 42nd) – End Automatic GCIC Purge of Mental Health Adjudications

This legislation would create a process where a person that had been involuntarily committed could petition the court that did the commitment for reinstatement of firearm rights after he or she is discharged. The court would hold a hearing to determine whether the person is likely to still be a threat. People would not be able to petition more than once every 12 months. It would also require the GCIC to notify the relevant court when a person's rights are being restored at the end of the existing five year period for automatic reinstatement. The court could then hold a hearing to determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence to extend the suspension for another five years.

SB 152 (Jones, 10th) – Limit How Long Students can be Sent to Alt School

This legislation wouldn't allow schools to send students 16 and under to alternative school for longer than the duration of the semester so long as the student behaves in the alternative school, unless the student committed assault, battery, bullying, or possession of drugs or alcohol. Students being suspended for those serious offenses would be entitled to a hearing to return to regular school after two semesters. Students that bring weapons to school would remain subject to the current year plus expulsion.

The Bad

Bills that Passed Both Chambers

HB 37 (Ehrhart, 36th) – Defund Sanctuary Campuses

This legislation would withhold state and state administered federal funds, other than funds designated to verify immigration status, from private colleges that adopt a sanctuary policy of refusing to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement.

HB 268 (Fleming, 121st) – Restrict Voting Rights

This legislation would eliminate the ability for cities to appoint municipal registrars.

It would require production of Native American tribal ID cards and not just a card number for voter registration.

It would require the Secretary of State to verify an exact match with the Georgia DDS or federal SSA information when one registers to vote.

It would allow, subject to an administrative hearing, the State Election Board to impose additional training, limit, suspend, or remove an election superintendent for violation of law or rule. It would require notices of candidacy filed by someone other than the candidate to include notarized authorization from the candidate. It would no longer require counties to notify each other when a voter's registration is changed to a new county by the Secretary of State. It would not allow polling places to be located outside a precinct within 90 days, and the superintendent must demonstrate that there is no suitable location in the precinct. It would allow the election superintendent to correct errors in ballot printing on his or her own so long as he or she notifies the candidate a Secretary of State.

It would allow self-proclaimed exit pollsters to conduct polling within 25 feet of the polling place; all others would remain restricted to the 150 foot barrier.

HB 243 (Werkheiser, 157th) – Preempt Local Wage Increases for Schedule Changes

This legislation would prohibit local governments from requiring employers to pay additional wages based on schedule changes.

HB 280 (Ballinger, 23rd) – Campus Carry

This legislation would allow people with weapons carry licenses to carry concealed handguns on college campuses, except in sporting facilities, housing facilities including fraternity and sorority houses, day care facilities, classrooms being used by high school students, staff offices, and rooms being used for disciplinary proceedings.

HB 292 (Jasperse, 11th) – Georgia Firearms Nondiscrimination Act and Other Firearms Changes

This legislation contains the Georgia Firearms Nondiscrimination Act (SB 282 from 2016 that passed on HB 1060 that was vetoed) that would create a civil cause of action for the termination or denial of credit or a financial services agreement with anyone licensed to deal in the commerce of firearms or ammunition products solely because they are engaged in commerce relating to firearms or ammunitions products. The attorney general would also be able to sue financial companies in violation for injunctive relief or a civil penalty of up to \$10,000

It contains a version of SB 49 that would increase the size where a carry permit is needed to carry a knife from 5 inches to 12 inches.

It would allow weapons carry reciprocity even if the other state does not allow anyone under 21 to carry guns. Georgia allows military members to carry guns at 18 for work. It would also direct the AG to maintain a list of states with which Georgia has reciprocity.

It would allow new Georgia residents with reciprocity to carry for 90 days so long as they apply for a Georgia WCP as soon as practicable.

Lawful hunters would be able to carry knives without a WCP.

It would clarify that persons generally exempted from weapons carry restrictions (police, officers of the court, etc.) would not be subjected to the limitations places on persons specifically allowed to carry in schools for their jobs.

It would require DNR to post gun safety information online and allow courts to include that with carry permits. It would provide the court and DNR immunity from complying with the licensing procedure.

It would reduce from 30 days to 20 days the time frame law enforcement has to process a background check and not allow the courts to grant extensions. It would

require courts to issue replacement licenses to anyone that's had a name or address change.

It would allow law enforcement officers who retire honorably with ten years' service in Georgia or elsewhere and maintains weapons training would be allowed to carry a gun anywhere without needing a weapons carry permit.

It would allow sheriffs that operate courthouses with security manned by deputies to require people otherwise allowed to carry their guns in a courthouse to check them with security, except for active duty law enforcement officers that are in uniform or wearing their official badges or ID cards.

It would clarify that the provision allowing weapons carry in nonsecured areas of airports applies to airports that an airline with at least \$1 billion in annual revenue.

It would make firearm instructors immune from liability for their students' subsequent criminal actions.

HB 452 (Petrea, 166th) – Public Listing of Non-Citizens Released from Federal Custody and Domestic Terrorism

This legislation would require the GBI to post online personal information identifying non-citizens that are released from federal custody in Georgia.

It would also expand the crime of domestic terrorism to include any felony motivated by ideology intended to kill any individual or group based on shared characteristics, any individual based on presence at any gathering, or any individual based on their presence at any location. It would also classify any activities, violent or non-violent, that disable or destroy infrastructure as terrorism. Disrupting road traffic is expressly listed. It would expressly state that membership in an organized terrorist organization is not a requirement for domestic terrorism. Current law defines domestic terrorism only as acts intended or reasonably likely to kill more than ten people based on shared characteristics.

Domestic terrorism that results in death would be punished by life or life without parole. Domestic terrorism resulting in kidnapping or serious bodily harm would be punished by 15-35 years or life. Domestic terrorism that disables or destroys infrastructure would be punished by 5-35 years. All minimum sentences would be mandatory, except for plea bargains. Murders committed in the course of domestic terrorism would be grounds for the death penalty. It would give the Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction with DAs to prosecute domestic terrorism.

It would also enumerate compounds that are classified as chemical or biological weapons and treat them the same as explosives for the purposes of criminal enforcement. It would direct POST to train officers in responding to domestic terrorism.

Bad Bills Stopped in Senate

HB 51/SB 71 (Ehrhart, 36th) – Campus Sexual Assault

This legislation would require colleges to report any information they receive that would suggest that a felony has occurred to law enforcement. For sexual assault investigations, the victim's name would only be provided with consent. It would require campuses to meet a "duty of care." It would require colleges to give a hearing to any student charged with a felony before initiating a disciplinary proceeding. Colleges would not be able to pursue disciplinary proceedings in sexual assault cases without the cooperation of the victim. It would not supersede federal law or regulations, but it would supersede federal guidance letters.

It was unanimously tabled in Senate Committee

Amendment to HB 159 (Reeves, 34th) – Require DFCS to Contract with Discriminatory Adoption Agencies and Revise Adoption Laws

HB 159 is an important piece of legislation that is a result of a multi-year process to modernize Georgia's adoption code. Unfortunately, it was hijacked in Senate Committee to add an unacceptable provision allowing adoption agencies that discriminate against LGBT people or anyone else based on a self-defined "mission" to receive state funds.

It was never brought to a vote by the Senate and a last minute attempt to pass a clean version was recommitted when it faced the same amendment.

HB 515 (Caldwell, 131st) – Gerrymandering

This legislation would make changes to five House districts. Earlier versions contained egregious racial gerrymandering, but the worst changes were removed under pressure from Democrats and the public.

It was never brought to a vote by the Senate.

The Ugly

Bills that Passed Both Chambers

SB 160 (Harper, 7th) – Back the Badge Act of 2017

This legislation would add aggravated assault with a firearm and aggravated battery against peace and correctional officers, first responders, or officers of the court to the list of crimes that must be tried in adult court for minors over 13.

It would make punish aggravated assault against peace and correctional officers, first responders, or officers of the court mandatory for crimes committed with a firearm as felonies of 10-20 years with a mandatory minimum of 10 years for people

17 and older, except in the case of a plea bargain. For aggravated assault against public safety officers committed with weapon other than a firearm the offender's bare hands would be felonies of 5-20 years with a mandatory minimum of three years for people 17 and older, except in the case of a plea bargain. Aggravated assault against a public safety officer committed with one's bare hands would remain a felony of 5-20 years with no mandatory minimum. Conviction would also include a fine of at least \$2000 earmarked for the Georgia State Indemnification Fund that pays indemnification for death or disability of law enforcement officers and first responders that are killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.

It would make the three years of the ten-year minimum sentence for aggravated battery against peace and correctional officers, first responders, or officers of the court mandatory for people 17 and older, except in the case of a plea bargain. Conviction would also include a fine of at least \$2000 earmarked for the Georgia State Indemnification Fund.

It would include obstruction of correctional officers in the misdemeanor crime of obstructing law enforcement officers. It would make a second conviction for obstruction a 2-10 year felony and a third or subsequent conviction a 3-15 year felony. It would make attacking law enforcement officers with bodily fluids or waste a felony punishable by 1-5 years in prison. It would also add a fine of at least \$300 earmarked for the Georgia State Indemnification Fund

It would clarify that one can be convicted of prison rioting in a city jail.

It would increase the payout from the Georgia State Indemnification Fund from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

HB 125 (Stephens, 164th) – Sales Tax Cap for Yacht Repair

This legislation would cap sales taxes for the repair of boats where the total cost of the repair exceeds \$500,000 at \$35,000. The recipient would report to DOR the number of jobs created, the average salary of each position, total revenue received, and total taxes paid during the repair. It would sunset June 20, 2025.

HB 126 (Willard, 51) – Add Political Appointees to the JQC

This legislation would reconstitute the Judicial Qualifications Commission into a seven member investigative panel and a three member hearing panel. The investigative panel would be two judges appointed by the Supreme Court, one attorney appointed by the Governor, one attorney and one citizen each appointed by the Lt. Governor and the Speaker. The Bar would no longer be involved in the nomination of potential appointees beyond being authorized to recommend appointments. The hearing panel would be a citizen appointed by the Governor and an attorney and a judge appointed by the Supreme Court.

The hearing panel would adjudicate charges filed by the hearing panel, make recommendations to the Supreme Court on disciplinary and incapacity orders, and issue advisory opinions on the Georgia Code of Judicial conduct, subject to review by the Supreme Court. The investigatory panel would handle all other duties.

Members and staff of the hearing panel would be prohibited from outside communications regarding disciplinary matters, including communications with the investigatory panel. All records would be confidential until formal charges are filed, except if necessary for the interest of justice or to protect the public, when an emergency exists, or when a judge is being considered for another position. The commission would only be able to investigate a judge based on a vote of the hearing panel.

It would also allow probate court judges to serve as JAG officers in the reserves or national guard.

HB 192 (Beskin, 54th) – Presumption that Bank Directors are Acting in Good Faith

This legislation would create a presumption that bank and corporate officers and directors are acting in good faith, absent a showing of gross negligence, except when determining whether a director may engage in a transaction that has a conflict of interest or when liability is created by law.

HB 338 (Tanner, 9th) – School Intervention and Takeover

This legislation would create a School Turnaround Officer overseen by the State Board of Education with authority to intervene in schools scoring in the bottom 5% on federal testing. The CTO would initially modify the school system's charter or strategic waivers plan. If the school's performance does not improve the CTO would have the authority to issue sanctions ranging from continuing the intervention contract to replacing staff and administration to taking over the school or letting parents send their children to nearby schools. See Appendix B.

Legislation Passed by House and Senate

Agriculture

SB 69 (Albers 56th) – Certification to Handle Organic Products

This legislation would remove the requirement that any individual who handles food advertised as organic must be registered with the Department of Agriculture. Organizations that handle organic certification would still need to be registered.

SB 78 (Wilkinson, 50th) – Hardship Waiver for Adulteration and Misbranding of Food Rules

This legislation would allow the Commissioner of Agriculture to waive or modify any rule relating to misbranding or adulteration of food, if the Commissioner finds that enforcement would create a substantial economic, technical, legal, or other type of hardship and that the underlying purpose of the statute is being achieved.

HB 50 (Pirkle, 155th) – Tort Immunity for Livestock Activities

This legislation would provide immunity for most death or injury to people suffered while participating in livestock activities such as grazing, herding, or otherwise handling livestock, livestock shows, fairs, and auctions, and livestock trainings and that either don't charge an entry fee or charge an entry fee that is exclusively used to maintain the animals or facility or to provide education or training to people under 23. Immunity would not apply when the event sponsor negligently provided dangerous tack, animals, or premises for the activity, failed to make reasonable efforts to determine the propensity of the particular animal cause harm, or failed to make reasonable efforts to determine whether the participant's ability to safely participate based the participant's representation of his or her ability.

HB 176 (McCall, 33) – Department of Agriculture Deals With FDA

This legislation would clarify that the Georgia Department of Agriculture is the state agency responsible for implementing the 2011 FDA Food Safety Modernization Act designed to combat contaminated food and provide that the department may conduct inspections and contract with the FDA to implement the law.

HB 49 (Pirkle, 155th) – Livestock Dealers

This legislation would remove reference to the term 'broker,' which is already interchangeable with the word 'dealer,' in the Georgia code, and would clarify that persons selling livestock only of their own production, buying only for their own production, or auctioning livestock for a third party are not livestock dealers.

This legislation allow letters of credit to satisfy the surety requirement for livestock dealers and replace the statutory bonding amounts with a requirement that dealers enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Agriculture to produce a surety in an proportionate to the size of their holdings.

It would also implement a triennial license fee for a livestock market operator proportional to the surety acquired by the operator, but which will not exceed \$200.00, and a triennial fee for a dealer not to exceed \$25.00.

It would also require the Commissioner to publish the names and locations of licensed dealers and market operators online.

Appropriations

HB 43 (Ralston, 7th) – FY 2017 Supplemental Appropriations Act

HB 44 (Ralston, 7th) – FY 2018 General Appropriations Act

Civil Law

SB 87 (Stone 23rd) – Bankruptcy Judgements Against Exempt Property

This legislation would allow individuals who have filed for bankruptcy to discharge all judgments against property exempted from debt by their bankruptcy order.

SB 147 (Williams, 27th) – Unitrusts for Cemeteries

This legislation would allow cemeteries to use a unitrust for their perpetual care trust fund instead of a fixed income trust. The trust would have more flexibility to invest its assets and would pay to the cemetery 4% of its value each year instead of the fixed income.

HB 1 (Ligon, 3rd) – Tort Immunity for Space Flight

This legislation would provide tort immunity to private space flight companies for any injuries to passengers or other non-crew persons that are injured through an inherent risk of space flight. It would require any participant to sign a warning and waiver advertising these risks.

HB 221 (Efstration, 104th) – Uniform Power of Attorney Act

This legislation would regulate all new powers of attorney other than those made in conjunction with a financial interest made to protect a creditor, health care directives, voting proxies, powers created on government forms for government purposes, and agency, domestic, and insurance powers of attorney governed by other regulations. Powers of attorney would be durable and only terminated by incapacity if specified in the contract. Powers must be signed, witnessed, and notarized in front of all parties. Unless otherwise ordered by a court, people could execute powers of attorney after protective proceedings begin, and that person would have authority. The most recent power of attorney would control unless

otherwise ordered by a court. Powers of attorney would begin immediately, unless otherwise stated.

Powers of attorney would terminate upon the principal's death, the principal's incapacitation if so provided, revocation by the principal, the contract states that it terminates, the purpose of the power is accomplished, or the agent's authority terminates with no process for replacement. Agents' authority would terminate when authority is revoked, the agent dies, resigns or becomes incapacitated, a divorce is filed between the agent and principal, or the power terminates. Termination would not affect good faith actions taken by people that thought the power was still in effect. Agents would be entitled to reasonable reimbursement for expenses, though any other compensation would have to be expressly stated in the power.

Principals could designate coagents or successor agents. Agents could accept appointment by acting as an agent. Agents would be required to act in good faith. Petitions to review the conduct of an agent could be filed by the principal, an agent, a fiduciary acting for the principal, a person authorized to make health care decisions for the principal, the principal's spouse, parent, or descendent, a presumptive heir of the principal, a beneficiary of the principal's will or trust, a government agency authorized to act to protect the principal's welfare, the principal's caregiver, or a person asked to accept the power. A non-incapacitated principal could move to dismiss a challenge brought by a third party.

People would be required to accept a signed, witnessed, and notarized power of attorney or request certification, translation, or a legal opinion unless the person is not otherwise required to engage in the transaction, the transaction would be illegal, the person knows the power has been terminated, a request for certification, translation, or a legal opinion is refused, the person thinks in good faith that the power is not valid or does not confer the appropriate authority, or the person knows a good faith report has been made to protective services that the principal is being victimized by the agent.

Agents would need express permission to modify a trust, make a gift, change rights of survivorship, modify a beneficiary, delegate his or her authority, waive the right to be a beneficiary under an annuity including a survivor retirement benefit, exercise fiduciary powers, exercise authority over electronic communication, or disclaim property. Legal actions, both relating to contract and litigation, would require delegation unless the power expressly refers to a specific legal, financial, or property subject, in which case the agent would have full authority for that matter, including to buy and sell the relevant property, unless provided otherwise in the power.

It would provide draft forms that may be used as-is or modified.

Current law allows for financial powers of attorney but only provides a model explanation of what a financial power of attorney is and a model contract. Neither are mandatory.

HB 323 (Caldwell, 131st) – Code Revision Commission Update

This legislation would update cross references and language and remove obsolete code sections.

Corporations

HB 87 (Raffensperger, 50th) – Three-Year Business Registration

This legislation would allow the Secretary of State to accept three-year registrations for partnerships, LLCs, and all forms of corporation.

It also includes SB 148 that would allow nonprofit corporations from states that allow domestication to become Georgia corporations by filing for a conversion with the Secretary of State. This conversion must be approved by the board, as well as anyone that have authority to vote on conversion or amendments under the corporate governing documents.

The new governing documents would control the corporation, but it would be treated as having existed since its initial formation. The new corporation would retain all interests of the old one. The new corporation would file a certificate of conversion in any county in which it owns land to be recorded as the new owner.

It would also allow a Georgia corporation to become a foreign conversion through the same process. Charities and other corporations that are prohibited from disbursing earnings to shareholders would give notice to the Attorney General at least 30 days before the conversion. The Secretary of State would become the registered agent for the defunct Georgia corporation and forward any service to the new agent.

Criminal Law

Criminal Activity

SB 160 (Harper, 7th) – Back the Badge Act of 2017

This legislation would add aggravated assault with a firearm and aggravated battery against peace and correctional officers, first responders, or officers of the court to the list of crimes that must be tried in adult court for minors over 13.

It would make punish aggravated assault against peace and correctional officers, first responders, or officers of the court mandatory for crimes committed with a firearm as felonies of 10-20 years with a mandatory minimum of 10 years for people 17 and older, except in the case of a plea bargain. For aggravated assault against public safety officers committed with weapon other than a firearm the offender's bare hands would be felonies of 5-20 years with a mandatory minimum of three

years for people 17 and older, except in the case of a plea bargain. Aggravated assault against a public safety officer committed with one's bare hands would remain a felony of 5-20 years with no mandatory minimum. Conviction would also include a fine of at least \$2000 earmarked for the Georgia State Indemnification Fund that pays indemnification for death or disability of law enforcement officers and first responders that are killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.

It would make the three years of the ten year minimum sentence for aggravated battery against peace and correctional officers, first responders, or officers of the court mandatory for people 17 and older, except in the case of a plea bargain. Conviction would also include a fine of at least \$2000 earmarked for the Georgia State Indemnification Fund.

It would include obstruction of correctional officers in the misdemeanor crime of obstructing law enforcement officers. It would make a second conviction for obstruction a 2-10 year felony and a third or subsequent conviction a 3-15 year felony. It would make attacking law enforcement officers with bodily fluids or waste a felony punishable by 1-5 years in prison. It would also add a fine of at least \$300 earmarked for the Georgia State Indemnification Fund

It would clarify that one can be convicted of prison rioting in a city jail.

It would increase the payout from the Georgia State Indemnification Fund from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

HB 231 (Broadrick, 231) – Controlled Substances Update

This legislation would make updates to Georgia's controlled substance schedules, including elevating non-prescription possession of fentanyl to Schedule 1.

HB 320 (Hitchens, 161st) – Counterfeit Safety Equipment

This legislation would extend the prohibition on installing counterfeit airbags to prohibit manufacturing, selling, and installing counterfeit airbags or any component of the occupant restraint system.

HB 452 (Petrea, 166th) – Public Listing of Non-Citizens Released from Federal Custody and Domestic Terrorism

This legislation would require the GBI to post online personal information identifying non-citizens that are released from federal custody in Georgia.

It would also expand the crime of domestic terrorism to include any felony motivated by ideology intended to kill any individual or group based on shared characteristics, any individual based on presence at any gathering, or any individual based on their presence at any location. It would also classify any activities, violent or non-violent, that disable or destroy infrastructure as terrorism. Disrupting road

traffic is expressly listed. It would expressly state that membership in an organized terrorist organization is not a requirement for domestic terrorism. Current law defines domestic terrorism only as acts intended or reasonably likely to kill more than ten people based on shared characteristics.

Domestic terrorism that results in death would be punished by life or life without parole. Domestic terrorism resulting in kidnapping or serious bodily harm would be punished by 15-35 years or life. Domestic terrorism that disables or destroys infrastructure would be punished by 5-35 years. All minimum sentences would be mandatory, except for plea bargains. Murders committed in the course of domestic terrorism would be grounds for the death penalty. It would give the Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction with DAs to prosecute domestic terrorism.

It would also enumerate compounds that are classified as chemical or biological weapons and treat them the same as explosives for the purposes of criminal enforcement. It would direct POST to train officers in responding to domestic terrorism.

Criminal Process and Procedure

SB 149 (Jones, 10th) – School Resource Officer Training, Municipal Probation Officers, and Inmate Regulations

This legislation would require the POST Council to create a 40 hour training program for school resource officers and declare it a best practice for schools to send their school resource officers to be trained.

It would also allow municipal probation officers to serve without completing a POST certified course, but they would not be able to make arrests without completing the course. Municipal probation officers would only be able to arrest people they are supervising unless they are also a peace officer.

It would not allow inmates to possess tobacco without approval of the jailer or warden, and it would be illegal to provide inmates tobacco without approval. It would also prohibit inmates in prisons from having prepaid debit cards and prohibit people from providing debit cards to inmates. Violations related to jails would be misdemeanors; violations related to prisons would be felonies.

It would could frivolous federal filings as well as state filings when determining whether a prisoner has filed three or more frivolous actions and therefore loses his or her ability to file for free as a pauper.

SB 174 (Kennedy, 18th) – Criminal Justice Reform Commission

Legislating resulting from recommendations made by the Criminal Justice Reform Commission. See Appendix A.

SB 176 (Kennedy, 18th) – Criminal Justice Reform Commission: Driver’s Licenses

This legislation would allow citations instead of arrest for any Title 40 (motor vehicle) violations, except offenses that can lead to a license suspension on the first offense, serious crimes including homicide by vehicle, using a vehicle in the commission of a felony, hit and run, racing, fleeing the police, driving with a suspended license, and DUI.

It would require courts to give someone that misses a traffic court date mailed notice that he or she missed court and a new hearing date before issuing a bench warrant and suspending his or her license.

It would remove the requirement that someone not be convicted of a drug or alcohol offense in order to get a probationary driver’s license after revocation for multiple serious vehicular crimes or DUIs. It would use the same criteria for issuance of a temporary license for revocations due to multiple serious crimes and revocations for multiple DUIs.

Effective July 1, 2017, it would authorize DDS to reinstate driver’s license revoked prior to July 1, 2015 for marijuana or first time possession of other drugs, so long as the offense wasn’t DUI-Drug.

HB 261 (Werkheiser, 157th) – Retroactive First Offender

This legislation would allow persons convicted of misdemeanors between May 18, 1968 and October 31, 1982 to petition the court to have their sentences discharged as if it was a conviction under the first offender program.

HB 343 (Hilton, 95th) – Rename Guilty but Mentally Retarded as Guilty with Intellectual Disability

This legislation would rename the verdict of guilty by mentally retarded to be guilty with intellectual disability.

Family Violence and Child Abuse

SB 168 (Miller, 49th) – Expand Access to Child Abuse Records

This legislation would allow licensed adoption agencies and law enforcement agencies and probation officers servicing or supervising families involved with DFCS to access DHS and county child abuse records. It would also allow federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies investigating possible child abuse and foster placement agencies to access the Central Child Abuse Registry.

HB 75 (Willard, 51) – Redact Information on Pending Child Abuse Cases

This legislation would allow DFCS or any governmental child protection agency to redact information related to pending investigation or prosecution of criminal activity related to a child's abuse, neglect, or dependency.

HB 303 (Ballinger, 23rd) – State Commission on Family Violence

This legislation would eliminate the State Commission on Family Violence appointment for Men Stopping Violence and allow it to go to a representative of any family violence intervention program registered with the Department of Community Supervision. It would expand terms to be three year terms instead of two and allow member to be appointed as ex-officios after serving their two allowed terms. It would clarify that a position is automatically vacated if the appointee leaves the position that creates eligibility. Members appointed to fill a vacancy would be able to serve two more terms. It would also give legislative and citizen members a per diem.

Firearms

SB 15 (Rhett, 33rd) – Weapons Carry Permit for Retired Law Enforcement Officers

This legislation would allow retired law enforcement officers that are collecting retirement and either have served ten of the last twelve years or have served for any ten year period and retired due to disability to obtain free weapons carry permits. Officers would be required to affirm under oath that that they meet all residency requirements when applying. Current law allows all officers that have served ten of the last twelve years to obtain free permits.

SB 18 (Harper, 7th) – Weapons Carry and Guns and Badges for Retired Law Enforcement

This legislation would allow law enforcement officers who retire honorably with ten years' service in Georgia or elsewhere and maintains weapons training would be allowed to carry a gun anywhere without needing a weapons carry permit.

It would allow law enforcement officers to retain their weapons and badges upon retirement or leaving employment due to disability under honorable conditions.

HB 280 (Ballinger, 23rd) – Campus Carry

This legislation would allow people with weapons carry licenses to carry concealed handguns on college campuses, except in sporting facilities, housing facilities including fraternity and sorority houses, day care facilities, classrooms being used

by high school students, staff offices, and rooms being used for disciplinary proceedings.

HB 292 (Jasperse, 11th) – Georgia Firearms Nondiscrimination Act and Other Firearms Changes

This legislation contains the Georgia Firearms Nondiscrimination Act (SB 282 from 2016 that passed on HB 1060 that was vetoed) that would create a civil cause of action for the termination or denial of credit or a financial services agreement with anyone licensed to deal in the commerce of firearms or ammunition products solely because they are engaged in commerce relating to firearms or ammunition products. The attorney general would also be able to sue financial companies in violation for injunctive relief or a civil penalty of up to \$10,000

It contains a version of SB 49 that would increase the size where a carry permit is needed to carry a knife from 5 inches to 12 inches.

It would allow weapons carry reciprocity even if the other state does not allow anyone under 21 to carry guns. Georgia allows military members to carry guns at 18 for work. It would also direct the AG to maintain a list of states with which Georgia has reciprocity.

It would allow new Georgia residents with reciprocity to carry for 90 days so long as they apply for a Georgia WCP as soon as practicable.

Lawful hunters would be able to carry knives without a WCP.

It would clarify that persons generally exempted from weapons carry restrictions (police, officers of the court, etc.) would not be subjected to the limitations places on persons specifically allowed to carry in schools for their jobs.

It would require DNR to post gun safety information online and allow courts to include that with carry permits. It would provide the court and DNR immunity from complying with the licensing procedure.

It would reduce from 30 days to 20 days the time frame law enforcement has to process a background check and not allow the courts to grant extensions. It would require courts to issue replacement licenses to anyone that's had a name or address change.

It would allow law enforcement officers who retire honorably with ten years' service in Georgia or elsewhere and maintains weapons training would be allowed to carry a gun anywhere without needing a weapons carry permit.

It would allow sheriffs that operate courthouses with security manned by deputies to require people otherwise allowed to carry their guns in a courthouse to check them with security, except for active duty law enforcement officers that are in uniform or wearing their official badges or ID cards.

It would clarify that the provision allowing weapons carry in nonsecured areas of airports applies to airports that an airline with at least \$1 billion in annual revenue.

It would make firearm instructors immune from liability for their students' subsequent criminal actions.

HB 406 (Powell, 32nd) – Weapons Carry Reciprocity

This legislation would allow weapons carry reciprocity even if the other state does not allow anyone under 21 to carry guns. Georgia allows military members to carry guns at 18 for work. It would also direct the AG to maintain a list of states with which Georgia has reciprocity.

Sexual Offenses and Human Trafficking

SB 104 (James, 35th) – Require Governments to Post Human Trafficking Hotline, Upskirting, Vehicle Hijacking, Drug Update, and Fake Insurance Cards

This bill would require government entities to post the human trafficking hotline model notice in buildings that they own or lease and post a link to the notice on their website and repeal the sunset on the notice in general.

It also would make it illegal to film or photograph a person under or through his or her clothing without consent and make it illegal to share that image or recording. Violation would be punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of no more \$100,000, or both.

This legislation would create a lesser crime of second degree vehicular hijacking when a person steals a car in the immediate presence of the driver without using a weapon. A first offence would be a felony of 1-10 years, a second would be 3-15 years, and a subsequent offence would be 5-20 years. The 10-20 year sentence for a first offence of first degree hijacking with a weapon and life for a subsequent offence would remain a mandatory minimum.

This legislation would elevate non-prescription possession of fentanyl to Schedule 1 and treat it the same as heroin for criminal purposes.

This legislation would increase the penalty for manufacturing or distributing false I surface documents to be a felony for the first offense and increase the sentence from a sentence of 1-3 years to be a sentence of 2-10 years.

SB 250 (Mullis, 53rd) – Sex Offenders

This legislation would prohibit persons who are required to register as sex offenders in other states from loitering around schools, playgrounds, and other locations where children gather in the same manner as prohibited for those registered in Georgia.

HB 86 (Oliver, 82nd) – Mandate Reporting of Suspected Human Trafficking

This legislation would add human trafficking to the list of suspected offenses that mandated reporters are required to report.

HB 341 (Reeves, 34th) – Human Trafficking

This legislation would include solicitation of a human trafficking victim as a form of human trafficking. It would be a felony. Solicitation of a 16 or 17 year old victim would be a felony of 5-20 years, and solicitation of a victim 16 or under or with a developmental disability would be 10-20 years.

It would remove Georgia's specific requirements about what goes on the human trafficking notice and simply give instructions on how to contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline and the Statewide Georgia Hotline for Domestic Minor Trafficking.

It would require anyone convicted of pimping, pandering, or maintaining a place of prostitution to serve at least 24 hours in jail. It would provide that the mandatory minimum sentence for people convicted of sexually exploiting children only applies to felony forms and not to the misdemeanor forms of failing to report suspected exploitation or to minor defendants protected under the "Romeo and Juliet" law. It would only require a single additional probated sentence beyond the minimum for persons sentenced to multiple consecutive sentences.

Economic Development

Elections

HB 42 (Lumsden, 12th) – Special Elections

This legislation would give county election superintendents the ability to correct mistakenly printed ballots or mistakenly programmed voting machines so long as he or she provides 24 hours notice to the Secretary of State and any affected candidates.

It would also allow runoffs for special elections that are held in conjunction with a federal special election to be held on the same day as the federal runoff.

HB 268 (Fleming, 121st) – Restrict Voting Rights

This legislation would eliminate the ability for cities to appoint municipal registrars.

It would require production of Native American tribal ID cards and not just a card number for voter registration.

It would require the Secretary of State to verify an exact match with the Georgia DDS or federal SSA information when one registers to vote.

It would allow, subject to an administrative hearing, the State Election Board to impose additional training, limit, suspend, or remove an election superintendent for violation of law or rule. It would require notices of candidacy filed by someone other than the candidate to include notarized authorization from the candidate. It would no longer require counties to notify each other when a voter's registration is changed to a new county by the Secretary of State. It would not allow polling places to be located outside a precinct within 90 days, and the superintendent must demonstrate that there is no suitable location in the precinct. It would allow the election superintendent to correct errors in ballot printing on his or her own so long as he or she notifies the candidate a Secretary of State.

It would allow self-proclaimed exit pollsters to conduct polling within 25 feet of the polling place; all others would remain restricted to the 150 foot barrier.

Family Law and Juvenile Justice

SB 130 (Tillery, 19th) - Waiving the Right to Counsel in Juvenile Court

This legislation would require any party to a juvenile dependency hearing or a delinquency case who wishes to waive their right to an attorney to do so knowingly, voluntarily, and on the court record.

SB 137 (Kirk, 13th) - Child Support

This legislation would impose the entire \$25 federal Deficit Reduction Act fee on the child or abandoned minor support obligor. Currently, the fee is split \$13/\$12 between the obligor and obligee. It would charge the fee up front instead of in monthly installments that start after \$500 has been collected.

It would also update various provisions of the child support code to add cross references to incorporate the statutory child support determination process into other areas where child support is addressed.

It would clarify that DHS Child Support Services is allowed to use contractors.

It would require separate worksheets when determining support for multiple children. It would provide that not using visitation is grounds for a support modification. It would have child support obliges remit the support order and income verification to DHS instead of the court. It would include when withholding commences and how to challenge it on an income withholding order. It would allow electronic submission of withholding orders. It would limit the suspension of state licenses for nonpayment to licenses and no longer include certificates and permits. The master list of persons whose licenses should be suspended would be updated regularly instead of monthly.

In situations where work-related child support needs varies, it would allow the courts to remove the work related child support obligation from the general support order and apportion is pro rata between the parents.

SB 175 (Kennedy, 18th) – Juvenile Justice Reform

This legislation would allow juvenile courts to enter restraining orders against parents and guardians of children in risk reduction plans where the juvenile courts use early intervention or school based programs to address issues with at-risk children. The court would consider the best interest of the child, the safety risk of the child, repeated behavior by the child, and the extent to which parental supervision and involvement may address the issue. Parents or guardians could be ordered to participate in a number of parental involvement activities, prohibit contact between the child and others, abstain from substance abuse or offensive conduct, or pay fees, fines, and restitution.

It would allow courts that determine that a child is not competent to stand trial to recommend the child to the least restrictive form of treatment possible, including nonsecure residential facilities. Commitment of any sort would only be allowed if the child presents a harm to others, shows a likelihood of committing further property crimes, or is a flight risk. Children that are adjudicated unrestorably incompetent would be released once their mental health service plan is complete. Children deemed likely to be restored to competency would not be committed for longer than the sentence for the crime they committed.

HB 250 (Ballinger, 23rd) – Day Care Workers to Satisfy DFCS Background Check

This legislation would allow a fingerprint background check conducted within the last year for a day care employee to satisfy the DFCS background check requirement.

HB 359 (Fleming, 121st) – Supporting and Strengthening Families Act

This legislation would allow parents to sign over their children to relatives or people approved by a child placement agency or other nonprofit for a period of up to one year by a revocable power of attorney. Parents could sign children over to grandparents for an indefinite time, and military personnel could sign over children for more than one year so long as it does not exceed the term of deployment plus 30 days.

The person would have all parental rights except to consent to marriage or abortion, to terminate parental rights, or to modify an existing support or other order. Child support would follow the child. Parents could not sign over their children during a divorce or custody proceeding. The person receiving custody could not be a sex offender and must undergo a background check. Parents with sole custody would

have to notify the noncustodial parent, and signing over a child would be grounds for a custody modification hearing.

HB 391 (Clark, 98th) – Child Abandonment

This legislation would allow women to abandon their infant children at fire and police stations in the same way as they are currently allowed to abandon infants at medical facilities. It would increase the maximum abandonment age from one week to 30 days. It would clarify that women abandoning children are not required to provide ID.

Financial Regulation

HB 143 (Williamson, 115th) – Banking Update

This legislation would make numerous changes to the banking code. It would redefine the statutory capital base that is used to determine the maximum transaction a bank can have with a single party to be based on federal definitions and the bank's federal filings. A bank seeking to waive those limits must do so in a formal board action. It would expand what is covered by those maximums, such as applying it to transactions secured by commodities.

It would give the Department of Banking and Finance subpoena power. It would regulate third party financial service contractors in the same manner as banks.

It would allow mortgage lenders to charge convenience fees based on method of payment to cover the actual costs of processing that payment.

It would require trust companies to file a letter of credit of at least \$500,000 with the department to defray litigation costs should it be put in receivership. Trust companies would have to maintain at least \$3 million on hand. These requirements could be increased based on the size or nature of the business.

It would require minors to be at least 16 to have a personal account.

It would allow standalone trust companies that aren't banks or trust company affiliates. It would require banks and trust companies to disclose the risk associated with any securities that are subordinate to other obligations in the event of a bankruptcy. It would allow banks and trust companies to remove board members for indictment for any crime of moral turpitude or failure to pay on an obligation to the company.

It would no longer regulate federally chartered bank holding companies and only regulate state chartered ones.

It would require credit unions that receive deposits from nonmembers to be insured and not put the deposits in a shared fund. It would allow small credit unions to use non-CPA auditors.

It would allow bonds to be cancelled electronically.

It would increase mortgage broker bonds from \$50,000 to \$150,000 and mortgage lender bonds from \$150,000 to \$250,000. It would allow for surprise onsite inspections of mortgage brokers, lenders, and originators.

HB 192 (Beskin, 54th) – Presumption that Bank Directors are Acting in Good Faith

This legislation would create a presumption that bank and corporate officers and directors are acting in good faith, absent a showing of gross negligence, except when determining whether a director may engage in a transaction that has a conflict of interest or when liability is created by law.

Health Care and Human Services

Health Care

SB 14 (Burke, 11th) – Rural Hospital Organization Grants

This legislation is a version of SB 180 that would limit rural hospital assistance grants to rural and critical access hospitals that has at least 10% of its revenue classified as indigent care, charity care, or bad debt, is current with all tax and reporting requirements, and is a nonprofit or operated by a local government hospital authority. These hospitals would still have to provide 24 hour emergency care and accept Medicare and Medicaid. It would increase the population threshold to be a rural county from 35,000 to 50,000. It would increase the maximum grant for strategic planning, such as personnel retention or developing new services, from \$200,000 to \$500,000. It would increase the maximum grant for nontraditional service delivery from \$1.5 to \$2.5 million. It would allow private hospitals to seek grants for the same infrastructure, development, and nontraditional service delivery purposes that local government owned hospitals can apply for, not just for emergency care. Total grants to a hospital would be capped at \$4 million.

SB 16 (Watson, 1st) – Lower THC amount in CBD Oil and Add More Conditions

This legislation would add severe Tourette's, autism for adults and severe autism for minors, Epidermolysis bullosa (genetic disorder that causes skin and mucous membrane blisters, severe or end state Alzheimer's, severe or end state AIDS, and severe or end state Peripheral neuropathy (nerve damage resulting from a variety of conditions) to the list of diseases for which CBD oil may be prescribed and allow CBD oil to be prescribed to people in hospice care. It would also allow people with out of state prescriptions to possess CBD oil in Georgia for 45 days and remove the one year residency requirement to be eligible. Physicians would only be required to

report on CBD usage semiannually instead of quarterly and would report of THC levels in their patients.

SB 41 (Unterman,45th) – Regulating Durable Medical Equipment Sales

This legislation would give the Pharmacy Board the authority to regulate companies that supply medical equipment that is designed for repeated use, intended to be used for three or more years, primarily used for a medical purpose, generally not useful to non-ill or injured people, and appropriate for home use. Licensees would have to maintain safety standards set by the board and pay the same fee as used for pharmacies. Licenses would be for three years. It would only apply to companies that file for insurance reimbursement.

SB 102 (Miller, 49st) – Office of Cardiac Care

This legislation would establish the Office of Cardiac Care under DPH to that designate and regulate emergency cardiac care centers. Hospitals would be designated as level 1, 2, or 3 centers depending on the level of care available. Level 2 and 3 centers would be required to have protocols in place to transfer patients to higher level facilities. The Office of Cardiac Care would collect data to maximize effective care. It would create a triage assessment tool and distribute the tool emergency care providers. It would also authorize the office to award grants to emergency cardiac care centers.

SB 193 (Unterman, 45th) – Crisis Pregnancy Centers

This legislation would make technical changes to the Crisis Pregnancy Center grant program passed last year. It would clarify that centers can use nongrant funds for political or religious purposes. It would also no longer allow Indigent Care Trust Fund money to be used for CPCs.

It also would allow doctors to engage in expedited partner therapy to proscribe antibiotics to sexual partners of patients that they diagnose with chlamydia or gonorrhea without examining those partners.

SB 200 (Hufstetler, 52nd) – Synchronized Prescriptions

This legislation would require prescription drug insurers to allow pharmacies to issue prescriptions for less than a month in order to synchronize a monthly refill with the patient's other refills.

HB 198 (Dempsey, 13th) – Information on Flu Vaccines

This legislation would require schools that provide vaccine information to include information on the flu vaccine in the same way currently required for meningitis.

It would also assign the Georgia Commission on Women that studies, collects, and disseminates information on women's issues to DPH for administrative purposes.

HB 241 (Hawkins, 27th) – Krabbe Testing

This legislation would include optional testing for Krabbe disease, an often fatal degenerative disease, in the newborn genetic test screening. It would be paid for by the parents.

HB 486 (Benton, 31st) – Medication Administration Curricula for Proxy Caregivers

This legislation would direct DCH and DBHDD to develop curricula for nurses to use when training proxy caregivers to administer medication to a disabled person in their care.

Healthcare Professionals

SB 47 (Hufstetler, 52nd) – Team Doctors

This legislation would allow out of state physicians, physician assistants, and athletic trainers that are traveling with a sports team or hired by a national sporting body to practice in Georgia to care for players on the team or at the event. Team doctors would be able to practice for ten days with the option to petition the Medical Board for a 20 day extension. Event doctors would be able to practice for 30 days.

SB 52 (Martin, 9th) – Eliminate Sunset on LPC Diagnostics

This legislation would eliminate the sunset on the provision allowing licensed professional counselors to diagnose addiction or psychiatric conditions for emergency intakes. It is currently set to sunset June 30, 2018.

SB 96 (Watson, 1st) – Allow Nurses and Physician Assistants to Pronounce Death

This legislation would allow nurse practitioners to pronounce death in nursing homes, along with physicians and physician assistants and remove the requirement that only physicians can pronounce the death of organ donors.

It would allow physicians assistants and nurse practitioners to pronounce death in nursing homes along with registered nurses and remove the requirement that only physicians can pronounce the death of organ donors.

It would also allow nurse practitioners, advance practice registered nurses, and physician assistants to pronounce death after a suspicious death.

SB 109 (Williams, 27th) – REPLICA and Nurse Licensure Compacts

This legislation would enter Georgia into an interstate compact to allow EMTs and paramedics to operate in signatory states. Member states must use the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) exam and have a complaint and investigation process that communicates with the interstate commission. States could take disciplinary actions against out of state responders for the purpose of that state, at which point the home state would investigate to see if the action would violate its laws as well.

It would create the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice to implement the compact. It would maintain database of licensure and disciplinary status for responders in all member states. The commission would be funded by an assessment on member states determined by the commission.

It would be subordinate to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) that regulates interstate practice during disaster response. It would require member states to provide expedited licensing for veterans.

It has been adopted in Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. Three more states must join before it takes effect.

This legislation would also enter Georgia into a compact to allow nurses to obtain multistate licenses. State licensing boards would still have the ability to take disciplinary actions against nurses practicing in that state. It would create the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators made up of one administrator from each state to oversee the compact.

It would take effect upon the adoption by 26 states or December 31, 2018, whichever is earlier. 25 are currently part of the original NLC.

SB 153 (Brass, 28th) – Allow Optometrists to Perform Injections

This legislation would allow optometrists that have completed 30 hours of training in performing injections to inject medicines around the eye. It would not allow injections into the eyeball itself or allow the injection of hydrocodone.

SB 242 (Unterman, 45th) – Expand Number of APRN Protocols

This legislation would allow physicians to enter into protocols with up to eight advance practice registered nurses in local government owned emergency rooms so long as the nurse doesn't order drugs and in any locations that uses evidenced based guidelines, is accredited required the physician to review at least 10% of the nurse's records, hold quarterly clinical collaboration meetings, and reports the physician's name to the patient's primary care physician within 24 hours. Physicians still would not be able to supervise more than four nurses at once.

HB 154 (Cooper 43rd) – Dental Hygienists

This legislation would allow dentists in private offices to authorize up to four dental hygienists with at least two years' experience to perform sealants, oral prophylaxis and assessments, fluoride treatment, oral hygiene instruction, and X-rays without supervision so long as the dentists performs the initial examination, examines the patient at least once a year, and notifies the patient that he or she will be examined by a hygienist.

Hygienists with at least two years' experience would be able to perform fluoride, sealant, and oral prophylaxis treatments in Title I schools with parental approval and oral hygiene instruction without needing parental approval. They would be able to perform fluoride, sealant, and oral prophylaxis in hospitals and other in-patient facilities so long as emergency care is available. They would be required to provide notice to the patient of their authorizing dentist, any issues observed, and a recommendation to see a dentist unless a dentist had initially examined the patient.

Hygienists employed by DPH and county boards of health would be able to work without direct supervision at approved offsite locations in addition to the currently allowed DPH, county board of health, and Department of Corrections locations.

The Board of Dentistry would report on the number of licenses issued to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on January 1, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

HB 157 (Kelley, 16th) – Repeal Requirement to List Boards on Advertisements

This legislation would repeal the requirement that physicians advertising themselves as board certified must list the certifying board on the advertisement.

HB 165 (Price, 48th) – Do Not Require Doctors to Maintain a Specialty

This legislation would provide that physicians do not have to maintain a specialty certification to practice medicine in Georgia.

HB 427 (Newton, 123rd) – Service Cancellable Loans for Other Practitioners

This legislation would allow dentists, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses to receive service cancellable loans in the same manner as physicians currently may.

Opioids

SB 88 (Mullins, 53rd) – Narcotic Treatment Programs Enforcement Act

This legislation would license and regulate narcotic treatment centers. It would create 49 regions across the state and only allow four centers in each region unless DCH issues a waiver. If DCH receives more than four applications, it would use a scoring system to decide who gets licenses.

DCH would set rules for safety, staff competency, and procedural guidelines. DCH would create an annual or biennial open enrollment period for narcotic treatment centers to apply for a license. DCH would create an applications review committee made up of DCH and DBHDD employees. The committee would review the qualifications of the proposed center and the availability of existing centers within 75 miles, the patient populations, whether or not the applicant has sought community input, and whether the applicant had had been cited for violations at other facilities. The center would have to register with all law enforcement within 25 miles and all drug courts within 75 miles. Centers would be subject to on site inspection every three years. Centers in good standing could transfer ownership and move within the same region.

Programs licensed before June 30, 2017 would not be subject to the regional maximum, but any region with four programs would be considered full.

People with criminal records would not be able to own or operate treatment centers, and applicants must submit to a background check.

It would prohibit centers from offering discounts or referral incentives or discounts during the first 90 days, except for drug dependent women. Centers would have to maintain records of all patients that DCH could access with identifying information removed. They would have to participate in the DBHDD opioid registry to prevent multiple enrollment. Centers would be required to have priority treatment for pregnant women.

SB 106 (Kirk, 13th) – Pain Management Clinics

This legislation would provide that the restriction on pain clinics operating without a physician present does not apply to the administration of anesthesia by a certified registered nurse anesthetist practicing under a written order from a physician and written consent from the patient.

SB 121 (Miller, 49th) – Standing Order for NARCAN

This legislation would give the state health officer the authority to issue statewide standing orders permitting people entities or categories of people or entities to obtain opioid antagonists (NARCAN) from pharmacies. Pharmacies would be required to maintain a copy of the order and records of all opioid antagonists distributed.

SB 125 (Jeffares, 17th) – Allow PAs to Prescribe Hydrocodone

This bill would authorize physicians to delegate to a physician assistant the authority to prescribe a single prescription for up to five days of hydrocodone so long as the prescription is less than 30 pills or 300mg for adults and less than 30 pills or 100mg for minors. Three of the PA's Continuing education hours must cover Schedule II substances, which includes hydrocodone.

HB 249 (Tanner, 9th) – Opiates

This legislation would name the prescription database the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program database (PDMP) and move it from the Drugs and Narcotics Agency to DPH. Prescribers would have to register within 30 days of receiving a DEA number. DPH would test the database during January through May 2018 to ensure that is functioning 99.5% of the time. Dispensers would have to submit prescription information daily instead of weekly. It would only allow delegation of prescription data entry to licensed doctors of all kinds, pharmacists, and nurses and others that are registered with the Pharmacy Board to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances.

PDMP data would be entered into patients' files. It would allow aggregated data to be used for instructional purposes and drug abuse prevention. It would clarify that aggregation and removing identifying data must comply with HIPAA. It would add a pharmacist and a DPH representative to the database advisory committee.

Prescribers of narcotics or benzodiazepines would have to review the PDMP upon initial prescription and every 90 days, unless the prescription is for a three day supply of fewer than 26 pills, for a patient in an in-patient facility, for a ten day prescription of fewer than 40 pills people who had just had surgery, for persons in in-home hospice care, or for cancer patients.

It would eliminate the civil cause of action for damages resulting from negligent or willful misuse of PDMP data.

It would allow certain forms of Naloxone (NARCAN) to be prescribed OTC to be used for overdose prevention.

It would require prescribers of opiates to provide oral or written notice of the addiction risks.

This legislation would give the state health officer the authority to issue statewide standing orders permitting people entities or categories of people or entities to obtain opioid antagonists (NARCAN) from pharmacies. Pharmacies would be required to maintain a copy of the order and records of all opioid antagonists distributed.

It would require providers to report instances of neonatal abstinence syndrome caused by exposure to drugs in the womb to DPH, which would issue an annual report on the prevalence and recommendations to address it.

It would require annual on site inspections of narcotic treatment centers and direct DCH and DHBDD to publish the number, discharge, and states of residence of people receiving treatment.

It would add drug overdoses to the list of circumstances where law enforcement must notify the coroner or medical examiner for an inquest.

It would rename the code section requiring schools to teach CPR the Cory Joseph Wilson Act.

Higher Education

HB 37 (Ehrhart, 36th) – Defund Sanctuary Campuses

This legislation would withhold state and state administered federal funds, other than funds designated to verify immigration status, from private colleges that adopt a sanctuary policy of refusing to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement.

Industrial Regulation

SB 85 (Jeffares, 17th) – Off Premises Beer Sales by Breweries and Brewpubs

This legislation would allow breweries to sell up to 3,000 barrels (93,000 gallons) of beer for on and off premises sales. Off premises sales would be limited to 288 oz (24 12oz beers) per person per day at any time that retail sales are allowed in the jurisdiction. Distilleries would be able to sell 500 barrels (26,500 gallons) of liquor for on and off premises sales. Off premises sales would be limited to 2.25L per person per day. Breweries and distilleries would be responsible for the same taxes as retail stores.

It would allow brewpubs to sell beer and wine for off premises consumption if authorized by local ordinance.

SB 141 (Thompson, 14th) – Carnival Ride Engineer Evaluation

This legislation would require carnival ride owners to submit an engineering evaluation that evaluates the safety of critical components to the Fire Safety Commissioner, the first time the operator applies for a ride permit after January 1st, 2018.

SB 226 (Miller, 49th) – Farm Wineries

This legislation would increase from 20% to 40% the amount of bulk wine that can be imported from out of state.

HB 210 (Lott, 122nd) – Remove State Regulation for Federally Regulated Biologic Source Blood Banks

This legislation would remove state regulation for blood banks that are used for source material for biological products and are regulated by the FDA.

HB 469 (Shaw, 176th) – Car Warranty Service

This legislation would require car dealers to submit the lesser of 100 non-warranty invoices or 90 days' worth of non-warranty invoices to the manufacturer for which they are a franchise to demonstrate the dealer's markup rate on parts and labor. The manufacturer could contest the declared rates within 30 days on the grounds that one or both exceeds the markup of similar situated dealers and propose a different rate. If there is a dispute and the dealer and manufacturer can't come to an agreement, the dealer could petition the Motor Vehicle Safety Commissioner for a hearing. The rate calculations would not include promotional rates or work other than vehicle repair, such as routine maintenance. Manufacturers would be required to pay the parts makeup on parts provided for free as part of a recall. Manufacturers would not be allowed to impose unduly burdensome requirements on dealers, such as requiring part-by-part or transaction-by-transaction recording, and dealers wouldn't be able to submit rate changes more than once a year.

If a manufacturer issues a stop sale or do not drive order issued due to a safety or emissions recall and cannot provide repair parts within 30 days, the manufacturer would be required to compensate the dealer 1% of the value of affected vehicles per day they can't be sold up to the full trade-in value of the vehicle. The value of a used vehicle would be the average trade-in value of that car. Compensation could be done under a national recall agreement, so long as the compensation is at least as much as would be required by the state.

It would allow franchise agreements to waive the manufacturer's right of first refusal to buy a dealership that is undergoing a change of ownership. The manufacturer would have the right to acquire the real property at the same price as

the proposed transferee, and the manufacturer would be liable for all obligations of the dealership that were to be transferred, so long as it was made aware of them.

HB 485 (Glanton, 75th) – Eliminate Referendum for Liquor Manufacturing and Distribution

This legislation would allow local governments to authorize the manufacture and distribution of liquor without needing a referendum. Package sales would still require a referendum.

HB 510 (Smyre, 135th) – Repeal Population-Based Alcohol Sales Distance

This legislation would repeal a population provision that would measure the distance from a church or school that alcohol can be sold from the property lines instead of the buildings in some medium size counties.

Insurance

Health Insurance

SB 103 (Mullis, 53rd) – The Pharmacy Patient Fair Practices Act

This legislation would prohibit pharmacy benefits managers, such as Express Scripts, from requiring insured individuals to use a mail-order pharmacy or pay a higher co-payment fee for not using a mail order pharmacy.

The legislation would prohibit pharmacy benefits managers from imposing restrictions on pharmacies' ability to offer services and from imposing or passing fees on to pharmacies.

It would not apply to Medicaid, the State Health Plan, and HMOs that operate pharmacies.

SB 206 (Martin, 9th) – Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Act

This legislation would create an insurance mandate for up to \$3,000/ear to pay for hearing aids for children beginning January 1, 2018. It would cover a replacement hearing aid every four years or when a hearing aid cannot be repaired or adjusted to meet the patient's needs. It would not apply if an insurer could demonstrate that children's hearing aids cost more than 1% of premiums collected or to policies offered by employers with 10 or fewer employees.

HB 146 (Gravley, 67th) – Insurance for Firefighters

This legislation would require fire departments to provide cancer insurance for firefighters that have served at least one year. It would provide a lump sum payment of up to \$25,000 if surgery, radiotherapy, or chemotherapy is necessary, if there is metastasis, or if the cancer is terminal or a lump sum payment of up to \$6,250 for more easily treated forms.

It would also require fire departments to provide three years worth of disability insurance. It would start after six months of disability and provide the lesser of 60% of the firefighter's salary or \$5,000/month. Volunteers would receive \$1,500/month.

HB 206 (Kelley, 16th) – Increase Medicaid PNA and Eliminate Medicaid Recoupment for Clerical Errors

This legislation, subject to appropriation, increase the monthly personal needs allowance for Medicaid recipients in nursing homes to \$70

It would also provide that merely making a clerical error when filing for Medicaid reimbursement is not fraud and does not subject the provider to recoupment of funds so long as the provider doesn't have a history of repeated errors and the error did not result in an improper payment, such as a duplicate payment or a payment to the wrong person. Recoupment for improper payments would be limited to the amount paid.

HB 276 (Knight, 130th) – The Pharmacy Patient Fair Practices Act

This legislation would prohibit pharmacy benefits managers, such as Express Scripts, from requiring insured individuals to use a mail-order pharmacy.

The legislation would prohibit pharmacy benefits managers from imposing restrictions on pharmacies' ability to offer services and from imposing or passing fees on to pharmacies.

Insurance Other than Health Insurance

HB 92 (Carson, 46th) – Car Insurance Cancellations

This legislation would provide that insurers can cancel multiple policies at once when the insured is out of compliance with the policy, such as by receiving too many serious tickets.

Insurers, Generally

SB 173 (Jones, 25th) – Captive Insurance Companies

This legislation would allow pure captive insurance companies to be organized as manager managed LLCs in addition to being organized as regular stock corporations.

It would create a separate framework to regulate captive insurance companies than other stock and mutual insurance companies. It would give the Insurance Commissioner the authority to make rules regarding the formation, organization, operations, merger, and dissolution of captive insurance companies.

Anyone seeking to form a captive insurance company would submit the company's articles of incorporation or organization along with a \$100 fee. The Commissioner would determine whether the company is set up to meet the state requirements, and if so, issue a certificate of authority at which point the Secretary of State can grant the corporate charter. The Commissioner would also review changes to the articles and collect a \$50 fee. Merger would require a certificate of authority but no fee. Conversion from a stock corporation to an LLC would require a certificate of authority and a \$100 fee. Dissolution would require a certificate of authority and no fee.

It would consider any company within the same corporate family as an affiliated company for the purposes of determining whether an insurance company is an affiliate entity, not just corporations with 50% shared ownership.

It would no longer require captive insurance companies to include captive insurance company in the name. It would no longer require captive insurance companies boards to be majority US citizens, but would retain the requirement that at least member be a Georgia resident.

Risk retention group captive insurance companies would only owe premium taxes on premiums received in Georgia.

It would limit agency captive insurance companies to only reinsure insurance contracts, annuity contracts, and service contracts or warranties issued by its parent.

It also would make numerous clerical and technical changes.

HB 74 (Taylor, 173rd) – Increase RBC Threshold for Health and Life Insurers

This legislation would increase from 2.5 to 3.0 the baseline risk based capital on hand needed for health and life insurers to avoid triggering a company action level event which occurs when an insurance company does not have a sufficient level of capital to safely mitigate risk. When a company action level event occurs, the company must submit a current financial analysis along with proposed corrective actions and a financial analysis of the proposed actions. The risk based capital baseline is set by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

HB 127 (Smith, 134th) – Repeal Old Blue Cross and Blue Shield Code

This legislation would eliminate code relating to hospital service nonprofit corporations (Blue Shield) and nonprofit medical service corporations (Blue Cross). Since the merger, Blue Cross Blue Shield is regulated as any other health care plan.

HB 174 (Lumsden, 12th) – Allow Insurers to Pay Claims by Prepaid Card

This legislation would allow insurers to pay claims with wire transfers, cashier's checks, bank drafts, and general use gift/prepaid cards, so long as the gift cards do not expire or have dormancy fees.

HB 262 (Lumsden, 12th) – Dental Insurer Provider Directories

This legislation would clarify that standalone dental plans only need to maintain information on in-network professionals in their provider directory and not hospitals and other facilities.

Judicial Process

SB 95 (Stone, 23rd) – Social Security Identifier for Master Jury List

This legislation would no longer require the Department of Driver Services to provide the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia ethnic information when sending driver's license and ID card information for the statewide master jury list. DDS would provide the last four digits of the person's social security number..

It would also no longer require the Secretary of State to send registered voter's race, ethnicity, and social security number to the council. Instead he or she would provide the last four digits of the person's a SSN. The Secretary would also provide the full name, date of birth, address, gender, and race of any individual declared as mentally incompetent. The mentally incompetent person's information shall be consistent with the information collected by probate court from each county.

When reporting deaths to the council, the Department of Public Health would also provide the council with racial information and the last four digits of the deceased's SSN.

The Department of Community Supervision, GCIC, and State Board of Pardons and Paroles would no longer report felony convictions. The Department of Corrections would be the only agency required to report felonies, and it would include racial data and the last four digits of the offender's SSN. The Board of Pardons and Paroles would, upon request, provide information about persons whose rights have been restored.

The Supreme Court would have authority to promulgate rules for the preparation, dissemination, and technological improvements of the state-wide master and county jury lists.

DDS and The Secretary of State would no longer need to provide data to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

SB 126 (Kennedy, 18th) – Jurisdiction for Tort Claims Against the State

This bill would clarify that tort actions against the State should be brought in the county where the tortious action happened not where the damages did, if different. Wrongful death actions could also be brought in the county where the decedent died. It would only apply to cases filed after July 1, 2017.

SB 132 (Tillery, 19th) – Civil Cases Administration

This legislation would eliminate the statutory forms for use in filing civil lawsuits and direct the Judicial Council of Georgia to create the forms.

This legislation would also direct the Administrative Office of the Courts to produce their analysis of data relating to civil courts by October also send reports to the Chairpersons the House and Senate Judiciary committees.

It would no longer require the Georgia Courts Automation Commission to collect civil forms and transmit them to the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Instead clerks would provide electronic copies of all forms directly to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

HB 76 (Jasperse, 11th) – Certification of Plat and Condominium Plans

This legislation would set formatting guidelines for plat maps and condominium plans. It would require plans to include the surveyor and, when applicable, the surveyor's firm's certification number unless the surveyor is the county surveyor that does not need to be registered. It would allow electronic signatures and other markings. The surveyor would include a list of all governing bodies that have signed off on the plat along with his or her certification statement. Plats prepared prior to the effective date could be submitted under the old standards but must be submitted electronically.

HB 88 (Fleming, 121st) – Require Superior Court Judges to be Bar Members

This legislation would require superior and state court judges to be in good standing with the State Bar, and would remove from office any superior court judge that is disbarred or suspended from practicing law.

HB 126 (Willard, 51) – Add Political Appointees to the JQC

This legislation would reconstitute the Judicial Qualifications Commission into a seven member investigative panel and a three member hearing panel. The investigative panel would be two judges appointed by the Supreme Court, one attorney appointed by the Governor, one attorney and one citizen each appointed by the Lt. Governor and the Speaker. The Bar would no longer be involved in the nomination of potential appointees beyond being authorized to recommend appointments. The hearing panel would be a citizen appointed by the Governor and an attorney and a judge appointed by the Supreme Court.

The hearing panel would adjudicate charges filed by the hearing panel, make recommendations to the Supreme Court on disciplinary and incapacity orders, and issue advisory opinions on the Georgia Code of Judicial conduct, subject to review by the Supreme Court. The investigatory panel would handle all other duties.

Members and staff of the hearing panel would be prohibited from outside communications regarding disciplinary matters, including communications with the investigatory panel. All records would be confidential until formal charges are filed, except if necessary for the interest of justice or to protect the public, when an emergency exists, or when a judge is being considered for another position. The commission would only be able to investigate a judge based on a vote of the hearing panel.

It would also allow probate court judges to serve as JAG officers in the reserves or national guard.

HB 279 (Ballinger 23rd) – Name Changes Under Seal

This legislation would allow superior courts to hear a petition for a name change under seal if the petitioner is a victim of family violence. It would waive the requirement that the petitioner post notice of the name change in the county's legal organ in such case.

Parental sign off would be required to change a minor's name, even if the parent in question was more than five years late on child support.

K-12 Education and Pre-K

SB 186 (Tippins, 37th) – HOPE Scholarship and Kinship Care

This legislation would allow students that received high school diplomas through the Move on When Ready dual enrollment program but did not receive an associate's degree to receive HOPE Grants.

It also would allow relatives to act as kinship caregivers to consent to participation in educational services, medical services related to education, and extracurricular

activities by an affidavit when the parents are unavailable or incapable of supporting the child's education. The affidavit would only be good for one year. Kinship caregivers must make a good faith effort to locate a parent before signing the affidavit. Persons acting upon actions by a kinship caregiver would not be liable if it later turns out that the caregiver was acting contrary to the wishes of the actual parent.

SB 211 (Tippins, 37th) – Review State Assessments

This legislation would direct DOE to review all state and local assessment models for effectiveness. It would consider alternative assessment models and would consider allowing different school systems to use different methods. It would also compare student results on national end of high school tests, such as the SAT, and state tests. It would release findings recommendations by September 1, 2017.

It would also require DOE to, in conjunction with local school systems, update its student assessment to provide real-time data, allow grouping of students by skill level, and measure progress toward the next grade during the year.

It would also require high schools to consider move on when ready students as candidates for valedictorian and salutatorian, except when the student moved into the district after sophomore year and never took classes at the school.

SR 95 (Black, 8th) – Split E-SPLOST by FTE Unless Schools Agree Otherwise

This resolution would propose a constitutional amendment so that an E-SPLOST referendum could be called by a school district or a group of school districts representing the majority of students. Funds would be distributed pursuant to an agreement between the school systems. If no agreement is reached, funds would be distributed based on local law, if applicable, or full time enrollment.

HB 139 (Belton, 112th) – School Financial Transparency

This legislation would require the Department of Education to post online certain budget expenditure information for each school, such as payroll and benefits paid out, the cost of materials, equipment, professional development and facility maintenance or construction. This would also include the overall per student expenditure of each school.

It would also require DOE to publish similar information for each school system, including total budget, amount of property and other taxes collected, and actual millage rate levied. Each school system would be required to display a link to this information prominently on their website, along with links to other state-generated reports.

DOE would issue rules for how schools and school systems would provide the information and remove confidential information.

It would also allow DOE to create unique identifiers to track children of military families for analytical purposes.

HB 338 (Tanner, 9th) – School Intervention and Takeover

This legislation would create a School Turnaround Officer overseen by the State Board of Education with authority to intervene in schools scoring in the bottom 5% on federal testing. The CTO would initially modify the school system's charter or strategic waivers plan. If the school's performance does not improve the CTO would have the authority to issue sanctions ranging from continuing the intervention contract to replacing staff and administration to taking over the school or letting parents send their children to nearby schools. See Appendix B.

HB 425 (Chandler, 105th) – Testing Opt-Out

This legislation would strongly encourage schools to allow parents to request that their children take standardized tests with a pencil and paper instead of online and strongly encourage schools to adopt policies providing alternative activities for students that opt out of tests.

HB 430 (Brockway, 102nd) – Charter Schools

This legislation would direct BOE and the State Charter Commission to come up with guidelines for charter school approval. Charter schools in districts that aren't meeting these standards would be able to petition to become a state charter school.

Charter schools would review their enrollment and personnel information before the data is sent to BOE to calculate QBE funding. School districts and start-up charters would be able to contract for part of the school's Title I and IDEA funding to be done by in-kind service provision. School districts would report charter school funding publicly.

The DOE would distribute \$100,000 in state funds to renovate charter school facilities, subject to appropriation.

Before denying an application for a charter school to use a school facility that the district hasn't used for two years, it must give the school the option for an appealable hearing.

HB 437 (Dickey, 140th) – Recreate Agricultural Education Advisory Commission

This legislation would recreate the Agricultural Education Advisory Commission to review agricultural education in Georgia and issue reports to the General Assembly. It would be comprised of three Senators appointed by the Committee on Assignment and three House member appointed by the Speaker, including a member of the Education and Agriculture Committee of each chamber, three non-legislators appointed by the Governor, and three non-legislators appointed by the State School Superintendent.

HB 463 (Dempsey, 13th) – Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning to Promote Public-Private Partnerships

This legislation would direct DECAL create a nonprofit Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning to Promote Public-Private Partnerships to receive state grant funds and promote education P3s.

Labor and Employment

SB 201 (Miller, 49th) – Use Sick Leave for Family Leave

This legislation would require employers that offer sick leave to let employees use up to five days of sick leave per year to care for family members. It would only apply to employees working 30 hours a week and employers of more than 25 employees that don't offer stock options. It would not create a cause of action. It would sunset July 1, 2020.

HB 243 (Werkheiser, 157th) – Preempt Local Wage Increases for Schedule Changes

This legislation would prohibit local governments from requiring employers to pay additional wages based on schedule changes.

Licensed Professionals

HB 39 (Powell, 32nd) – Convictions by Real Estate Professionals

This legislation would give real estate appraisers, brokers, and salespeople ten days to notify their respective boards of a conviction for a felony crime of moral turpitude or a Fair Housing Act violation. It would allow the Real Estate Appraisers Board and Real Estate Commission discretion to not impose sanctions for a conviction. If an appraiser, broker, or salesperson fails to seek a hearing within 60 days of a conviction the relevant board may impose sanctions without a hearing.

HB 41 (Harrell, 106th) – Licenses for Architectural Students

This legislation would allow students that participated in a National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) accepted Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure program to receive licenses while perusing a degree.

Local Governments and Courts

SB 156 (Millar, 40th) – DeKalb Taxes

This legislation would uncouple the DeKalb assessment freeze from the new SPLOST/Equalized HOST process and allow a SPLOST/EqHOST referendum without affecting the assessment freeze.

It would limit the use of funds from a SPLOST in an EHOST county to only be used for transportation and public safety projects but no other capital outlay projects, and repairs would be capped at 15% of revenue received.

It also would eliminate the provision that cities created after May 4, 2015 in a HOST county and don't maintain their own (Tucker) would automatically give their SPLOST revenues to the county and instead allow them to execute IGAs to decide what projects will be done.

SB 222 (Kennedy, 18th) – Local Government 9-1-1 Authority

This legislation would create the Local Government 9-1-1 Authority to manage 9-1-1 fees. It would receive all 9-1-1 fees that currently go to local governments and distribute them back to local governments pro rata based on 9-1-1 fees that originated from the jurisdiction. It would audit service providers every three years to ensure compliance. Failure to comply with the audit would result in a \$1,000 a day fine, and failure to remit fees would result in a fine of the lesser of \$25,000 or 3% of what should have been paid.

The authority would be overseen by a board made up of local elected officials, local government emergency response employees, and law enforcement appointed by the governor. It would contract with DOR to administer the collection and disbursement of fees for no more than 1% of fees collected.

This legislation would also clarify that 9-1-1 fees should be paid on every line in a multi-line phone system. It would eliminate the monthly fee on prepaid phones and increase the per-transaction fee from 75¢ to \$1.50. It would eliminate the 9-1-1 Advisory Committee. It would prohibit counties from charging cities to direct 9-1-1 calls to city responders, except pursuant to existing IGAs.

HB 138 (Hawkins, 27th) – Add a Judge to Northeastern Circuit

This legislation would add a fifth judge to the Northeastern Judicial Circuit (Hall and Dawson Counties).

SB 258 (Tillery, 19th) – Debtors to Cities and School Districts Can't Hold Office

This legislation would extend the prohibition on individuals that owe money to the state or a county from holding public office to also apply to municipalities and school districts.

HB 14 (Jones, 167th) – Sheriffs Transferring Collected Fees

This legislation would require salaried sheriffs who collect fees for department services to transfer collected fees to the treasurer or fiscal officer of the county within 30 days of receipt.

HB 319 (Werkheiser, 157th) – Increase Habeas Reimbursement to Counties

This legislation would increase the maximum amount of state funds that counties receive to offset costs from denying indigents' writs of habeas corpus from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

HB 428 (Martin, 49th) – DDA Financing Projects

This legislation would provide that tax assessments to fund financing of private projects by a downtown development authority must be pursuant to a contract between the property owner, downtown development authority, and the project administrator, must be administratively acknowledged by the local jurisdiction, and notice must be recorded.

HB 453 (Dreyer, 59th) – Add Chief Magistrate Judge to Law Library Boards

This legislation would add the chief judges of magistrate court to the board of county law libraries.

HB 481 (Tanner, 9th) – Preempt Drone Regulations

This legislation would preempt any local ordinances restricting unmanned aircraft except those in existence before April 1, 2017, that enforce FAA regulations, or that allows or disallows commercial drones from landing on public property.

Natural Resources and Environment

HB 238 (Hatchett, 150th) – Solar Exemption for CUVA Covenants and Farm Housing

This legislation would allow owners of properties under a conservation use valuation assessment covenant to remove a portion of the property from the covenant to install solar power generation. The property owner would have to pay the breach penalty on the portion to be used for solar but not on the rest of the property, and the portion removed from the covenant would be taxed at normal rates.

It would also allow portions of property under CUVA covenants to be used to house farm workers at no cost. The portion removed from the covenant would be taxed at normal rates.

HB 413 (Parsons, 44th) – Pipeline Permitting

This legislation would require any construction of a new pipeline or extension of an existing one to receive a permit from EPD. Applicants would provide a map, environmental impact statement, proof of financial responsibility, and information on geologic features, areas of historical significance, and impacted endangered species. Applicants would have to provide notice to all landowners whose properties are within 1,000 feet of the proposed pipeline and must run an ad in the local legal organ. The EPD director would consider the application, environmental impacts, potential alternative siting, and comments for the public and affected local governments. Affected landowners may intervene to oppose the pipeline. Others would be able to petition for a separate hearing to challenge the issuance of the permit on the grounds that they are adversely affected within 30 days.

New pipelines and pipeline extensions that seek to use eminent domain would require a certificate of need from GEFA. Prior to initiating eminent domain, the company would have to specifically notify the landowners that they have statutory rights. The CON application must include siting details, what interests will be served, and anything else required by GEFA. The GEFA director would determine whether the pipeline is necessary to meet demand and whether the benefit outweighs the environmental risks.

It would eliminate the State Commission on Petroleum Pipelines that was created last year to examine pipeline construction and eminent domain laws. It would also eliminate the moratorium that is set to end June 30, 2017.

Public Safety

HB 405 (Hitchens, 161st) – Exempt Essential Suppliers from Curfew

This legislation would direct GEMA to develop a plan to exempt suppliers of essential goods from curfews in the event of an emergency. GEMA would develop a program for preemergency and/or postemergency of essential suppliers and issue them an electronically delivered indicia that identifies to local officials that a business has been certified. It would not require certified businesses to provide any specific functions in an emergency.

Real Estate and Property

HB 197 (Teasley, 37th) – Disclosure that Ads to Obtain Deeds are Ads

This legislation would require anyone sending advertisements to obtain a deed or other instrument conveying real estate to include “THIS IS NOT A BILL OR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT. THIS IS A SOLICITATION” in at least 16 point font at the top of the advertisement.

HB 251 (Ealum, 153rd) – Allow Inmates Assisting Disaster Cleanup to Enter Private Property

This legislation would allow employees of the Department of Corrections and inmates under their supervision to enter private property to assist with property protection, debris removal, service restoration, and infrastructure repair during a declared state of emergency.

HB 434 (Willard, 51st) – Require Determination of Blight Before Starting Condemnation

This legislation would require any action to condemn blighted property to start with a hearing to determine whether the property is in fact blighted.

Revenue and Taxation

SB 70 (Miller 49th) – Extend Hospital Bed Tax to 2020

This legislation would extend the bed tax/provider fee that charges hospitals based on net revenue in order to continue drawing down additional Medicaid funding.

HB 196 (Dollar, 45th) – Property Taxes

This legislation would allow property owners to supply actual income and expense data for valuation purposes. It would consider the decreased operational revenue for income generating property or diminished value for non-income generating property when valuating property subject to restrictions as part of receiving the federal low income housing tax credit.

It would create a property tax exemption for nonprofit homes for the mentally disabled that are LLCs and a for profit company is a member for the purpose of financing construction under the federal low income housing tax credit program, which creates a saleable tax credit that a developer can sell to finance construction

It would also allow disabled veterans or their surviving spouses and minor children that are delayed in receiving disabled status to retroactively receive eligibility for the disabled veterans homestead exemption and receive a refund for the excess taxes they paid since becoming disabled, to a maximum of three years.

HB 208 (Rhodes, 120th) – Raise Price of Hunting and Fishing Licenses

This legislation would limit the birthday hunting and fishing license included with a boat rental to only be on one's birthday instead of one's birthday and the following two days. It would allow for early renewals of hunting and fishing licenses. It would allow DNR to require nonpaid licenses on top of one's hunting or fishing license.

It would increase the prices for lifetime licenses. Licenses for people two and under would increase from \$200 to \$500, licenses for people 15 and under would increase from \$350 to \$600, licenses for people 16 to 49 would increase from \$500 to \$600, and licenses for people 60 TO 64 would increase from \$95 to \$315. It would create a new age category for people 50 to 59 that would be \$375 instead of \$500. People born 1952 or earlier would be able to buy hunting or fishing licenses for \$35 or a combination license for \$70.

It would create a 20% discount for active duty military members to buy lifetime licenses. It would include a provision telling the General Assembly not to increase prices by more than 20%/year. It would increase the cost to replace a license from \$10 to \$15. Multiyear youth licenses would only be valid until the person turn 17. It would impose a fee on licenses for the disabled of \$3/year for hunting or fishing licenses or \$5/year for combined licenses. Three year licenses would be available for \$9 fishing or hunting and \$15 for combined.

It would require DNR approval for disabled veteran fishing tournaments for which nonresident disabled veterans can receive free, temporary licenses that allow them to participate and clarify that the license includes a trout stamp.

It would require a migratory bird stamp to hunt ducks, geese, or swans on one's own property. Hunters of migratory birds would be required to take and carry proof of taking the annual migratory bird screening questionnaire, even if they have

a lifetime license. Alligator licenses would be free to lifetime license holders that are selected in the lottery.

It would increase the registration fee for trawlers from \$50 to \$85 for the first 18 feet; the price per foot beyond that would remain \$3/foot. It would eliminate the length based charges on commercial boats other than trawlers and charge them all a flat \$5. It would increase the additional fee for nonresident boats from \$25 to \$150 for trawlers and add a \$50 charge for other commercial boats. It would allow trawlers to buy crew licenses that would eliminate the need for individual commercial fishing licenses. It would require anyone engaged in seafood commerce to obtain a \$40 seafood dealer license.

It would raise the price of most hunting and fishing licenses. It would reduce the length of three day nonresident license to one day but allow extension for up to ten days upon payment of additional fees. It would allow DNR to designate certain fish as commercial species that would require a commercial fish stamp in addition to a commercial fishing license.

It would eliminate the need for a separate deer-dog license to hunt deer with dogs. Instead of revocation of a license, violations would be punished by suspending deer-dog privileges for up to two years.

It would provide that the private pond fishing license exemption for family members only applies to immediate family members.

It would raise the license fee for a crab trap license that can cover up to 200 traps from \$2 to \$2.50 per trap and make the licenses transferable.

It would increase the registration fee for vessels under 16 feet from \$15 to \$25, 16 to 20 feet from \$36 to 60, 26 to 40 feet from \$90 to \$130, and 40 or more feet from \$150 to \$200.

HB 283 (Knight, 130th) – IRS Update

This legislation would update Georgia's tax code to update dates and cross references to match federal changes.

HB 290 (Watson, 172nd) – Agricultural Equipment Property Taxes

This legislation would clarify that the property tax exemption for agricultural equipment held by family farms under a lease purchase agreement applies when the title remains with the lessor and when a standard lease contains a fixed price purchase option that can be executed during the lease term.

HB 337 (Williamson, 115th) – “State Tax Execution Modernization Act”

This legislation would only give mortgages and judgments priority over motor fuel tax liens when the mortgage or judgment has been recorded in the county where the liable party’s principal place of business is located instead of any county where the party owns property.

Lines would be filed with the clerk in the county of the liable taxpayer’s last known address instead of where the property is located. Liens would not attach against a subsequent purchaser on property where the purchaser received a certificate of clearance that the property had no liens.

It would allow appeals to be filed with the Tax Tribunal any time after an assessment is recorded. It would eliminate the provision where a taxpayer can challenge an execution by filing an affidavit of illegality with the sheriff. It would increase the statute of limitations on the state’s ability to levy executions from seven to ten years.

It would require all executions to be filed electronically with the court clerk. Liens filed with the sheriff would have to be refiled by December 31, 2017. It would expand the information stores in the DOR public database of tax executions and require the department to list the status of the execution and require a process to connect the DOR database with the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority’s. The authority would revise its property information database to include information on executions.

Prior to sale of a property, the owner, a lawyer, or a title insurance company would be able to request a certificate of clearance of a statement of liens from DOR. The certificate would be binding for 30 days, and DOR wouldn’t issue new liens in the time. Failure of DOR to provide the statement within five days would void all liens on the property.

HB 340 (Shaw, 146th) – Reduce TAVT on Leases

This legislation would impose title ad valorem tax (TAVT) only on the total sum of payments for leased cars instead of on the full agreed upon value of the car.

HB 342 (Efstration, 104th) – Sales Tax Enterprise Zones

This legislation would allow for enterprise zones to be created for locations with at least \$400 in investment potential and that have been chronically underdeveloped for 20 years. Sales taxes, other than ESPLOST, MARTA, and MOST, would not be collected in the zone, and the local government could assess a fee not to exceed the total uncollected sales taxes to be used for infrastructure improvement in the zone.

HB 375 (Raffensperger, 50th) – Repeal Tax Execution Fee

This legislation would repeal the 50¢ fee levied when tax executions or liens are recorded. It would also send notice of tax executions to the owner of record as of January 1 unless that person demonstrates that the property has sold.

Tax Expenditures

SB 133 (Walker III, 20th) – Corporate Net Worth Tax Exemption and Rural Investment Tax Credit

This legislation would exempt all companies with a net worth of less than \$100,000.00 from the state corporate net worth tax, beginning in 2018.

It also would create a tax credit for investors that invest in rural funds that are certified by DCA to be rural or small business investment companies under federal law with at least \$100 million in private equity in rural areas nationally. Funds would submit the amount of investments requested, a list of the estimated number of jobs to be created, a business plan outlining expected state and local tax revenue to be generated, and a \$5,000 fee. DCA would be able to certify up to \$100 million in investments.

The credit would be 15% of the purchase price of the investor's stake in the fund that could be taken on the second, third, fourth, and fifth anniversaries of the investment in the fund.

The funds would invest in companies with fewer than 250 employees that are located in a rural counties with population under 50,000 and are involved in the agriculture, health care, transportation, or related industries or are certified by DCA to be beneficial to the rural area. Businesses would not be able to accept investments exceeding the greater of 20% of their assets or \$6.5 million from rural funds. Credits would be subject to recapture if the fund fails to invest the full amount requested within two years or fails to stay 100% invested in rural businesses. Funds that produce fewer than 60% of the proposed jobs would be subject to a 10% fine on the tax credits when distributed, and funds that fail to produce 80% of the jobs proposed would be subject to a 5% fine. Funds would be able to exit the program after six years and must disburse all assets within 14 years.

SB 180 (Burke, 11th) – Expand Rural Hospital Tax Credit and Modify Noncompensated Training Tax Credit

This legislation would increase the tax credit for donations to rural hospitals from \$2,500 with 70% deductibility to \$5,000 with 90% deductibility for individuals, and from \$5,000 with 70% deductibility to \$10,000 with 90% deductibility for married couples.

This legislation would also fix the aggregate cap at \$60 million. Currently, it is \$50 million in 2017, \$60 million in 2018, and \$70 million in 2019. It would allow

preapproved donors to claim the tax credit at the preapproved percentage, even if it is lowered, or if the hospital receiving the donation fails to comply with the Department's reporting requirement.

It would also increase the maximum population in which a hospital must be located to be eligible from 35,000 to 50,000. It would require hospitals receiving the credit to report any payments to a third party for soliciting or facilitating donations.

It would also eliminate the current \$1,000 deduction for physicians that provide three to ten noncompensated clerkships and replace it with a tax credit for physicians, advance practice registered nurses, and physician assistants that provide at noncompensated training rotations with 160 or more total training hours. The credit for physicians would be \$500 for the first three rotations and \$1,000 for the next seven. APRNs and PAs would receive \$375 for the first three rotations and \$750 for the next seven.

HB 73 (Houston, 170th) – Rural Development Tax Credit

This legislation would create a tax credit for employers with two or more employees of \$2,000 for each job created in a revitalization zone that is an area designated by DCA and DEcD as areas that have a high concentration of buildings over 50 years old, a feasibility study identifying economic activities that could be supported in the area, have a master plan, and are located in a local government with high poverty and a population under 15,000. DCA would be able to certify 10 revitalization zones per year to a maximum of 50.

It would create a tax credit for purchasing property in a revitalization zone 25% of the purchase price to a maximum of \$125,000 spread over the next five of the next seven tax years so long as it is occupied by a professional services or retail business with at least two employees.

It would also create a tax credit for renovating property in a revitalization zone in accordance with historical preservation guidelines of 50% of rehabilitation expenses to a maximum of \$75,000 spread over the following five years, so long as the property houses a professional services or retail business with at least two employees. Receipt would preclude receipt of other historic preservation tax credits.

HB 117 (Watson, 172nd) – No Sales Tax on Donations to Entertainment Centers

This legislation would exclude donations to entertainment and amusement centers, such as theaters and athletic facilities, from sales tax.

HB 125 (Stephens, 164th) – Sales Tax Cap for Yacht Repair

This legislation would cap sales taxes for the repair of boats where the total cost of the repair exceeds \$500,000 at \$35,000. The recipient would report to DOR the number of jobs created, the average salary of each position, total revenue received, and total taxes paid during the repair. It would sunset June 20, 2025.

HB 155 (Carter, 175th) – Musical Production Tax Credit

This legislation would create a non-saleable tax credit for musical productions, including live and recorded productions, produced in Georgia. The credit would be 15% of in-state expenditures. Companies producing live performances must spend at least \$500,000 to be eligible, companies producing recorded productions to be incorporated into movies or TV must spend \$200,000, and other companies producing recorded productions must spend at least \$100,000. No company could claim more than 20% of the total credit available. It would be capped at \$5 million for 2018, \$10 million for 2019, and \$15 million for 2020-2023, when it would sunset.

HB 199 (Rhodes, 120th) – Prerelease Video Game and Video Postproduction Tax Credits

This legislation would extend the entertainment tax credit to companies in the process of making prerelease video games in Georgia. It would lower the total spending threshold for eligibility from \$500,000 to \$250,000. It must include a Georgia promotion in the all versions to be eligible for the enhanced credit. Companies would not be able to receive credits for prerelease games for more than three years. It would also eliminate the sunset on the game tax credit in general.

It would create a new saleable tax credit for video postproduction companies. Companies with aggregate payroll would be eligible for a credit of up to 20% of their total expenditures up to total payroll, an additional 10% if the production being edited was produced entirely in Georgia, and additional 5% if the production was created in one of the 106 Tier 1 or Tier 2 counties that have the highest unemployment, lowest per capita income, and highest poverty rates over the past three years for companies with over \$500,000 in payroll. The total credit would be \$10 million and sunset after 2022. No company could claim more than 20% of the total credits. Companies with payroll of \$100,000 to \$500,000 would be eligible for a 20% credit, subject to a separate aggregate \$1 million cap. It would sunset in 2023.

HB 237 (Coleman, 97th) – Tax Credit for Donations to Public Schools

This legislation would allow taxpayers to take a tax credit of \$1,000 for a single filer, \$2,500 for married filers, \$10,000 for partnerships, LLCs, and S corporations, or 75% of total tax liability for a C corporation to fund grants for programs to help low

performing public schools with test scores in the bottom 5% statewide and disseminate information on successful programs. It would be administered through the Public Education Innovation Fund Foundation that currently is used to promote education P3s. The credit would be capped at \$5 million aggregate. It would sunset December 31, 2020.

HB 247 (LaRicca, 169th) – Sales Tax Exemption for Concrete Equipment

This legislation would exempt equipment used to mix and transport concrete from sales taxes through July 1, 2020.

HB 265 (Efstration, 104th) – Additional Job Creation Tax Credit

This legislation would allow employers that had already taken their seven year job creation tax credit to begin another seven year tax credit if they acquire at least \$2.5 million in additional property and create 50 more jobs than their highest total during any proceeding seven year period. The credit would continue to be \$2,500 per job paying 110-120% of the average county wage, \$3,000 per job paying 120-150% of the average county wage, \$4,000 per job paying 150-175% of the average county wage, \$4,500 per job paying 175-200% of the average county wage, and \$5,000 per job paying over 200% of the average county wage.

Retirement and Pensions

HB 83 (Maxwell, 17th) – Alternative Investments by the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund

This legislation would allow the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund to invest up to 10% of its assets in real estate. It would also allow the fund to invest up to 10% of its assets in riskier financial products that tend to come with higher returns. Other retirement funds would remain limited to 5%.

HB 312 (Maxwell, 17th) – Roth 401(k)s

This legislation would direct the Employees Retirement System and allow local governments to use Roth retirement plans where one contributes post-tax money that then grows tax free.

HB 370 (Hilton, 95th) – Municipal Judge Retirement

This legislation would allow the Council of Municipal Court Judges of Georgia to create and oversee savings and deferred compensation plans for municipal court judges.

State Government

SR 403 (Shafer, 48th) – Appoint Seth Harp to State Election Board

State Agencies, Authorities, Boards, and Commissions

SB 117 (Martin, 9th) – GTA Exemptions and Waivers

This bill would clarify that agencies under General Assembly and the Georgia Department of Defense are not among the agencies the Georgia Technology Authority can implement rules concerning technology practices. It would also allow the Authority to grant waivers for their policies to any agency.

SB 128 (Wilkinson, 50th) – DNR/DDS Information Sharing

This bill would authorize Department of Driver Services to provide driver's license information to Department of Natural Resources to use for fraud prevention.

SB 183 (Beach 21st) – State Road and Tollway Authority

This legislation would allow SRTA to engage in design build contracts where the contractor both designs and builds the project under the existing process used by DOT.

This legislation would allow SRTA to use revenue streams from corporate partners to satisfy the self-financing requirement for toll roads and to extend credit to private toll road operators. Debt would only be secured by project revenues and not by general obligation debt.

It would also allow SRTA to impose tolls without an expiration date if the primary purpose isn't to repay financing.

HB 136 (Carter, 175th) – Department of Driver Services

This legislation would allow DDS to mark as invalid non-expired out of state licenses, learner's permits, and other licenses that currently must be destroyed when applying for a driver's license or ID card. It would codify that a temporary license or ID card issued while the permanent one is being printed is valid. It would clarify that foreigners can keep their foreign licenses or permits when applying for a Georgia permit, the same as for a license. It would make failure to surrender a prior license or ID card fraud. It would remove the requirement that a disabled parent or guardian must have had a valid driver's license in order for their children to get an early instructional permit. It would allow people to get eight year commercial driver's licenses for an extra \$12. It would reduce the cost of eight year driver's

license from \$35 to \$32. It would disqualify anyone with any license violation from receiving a commercial driver's license, not just violations related to his or her CDL. It would no longer make willful failure to surrender a driver's license a misdemeanor. It would allow DDS to contract with debt collection agencies to collect delinquent fees from people with suspended or revoked licenses.

It would also clarify that three wheel vehicles steered by a steering wheel are cars and may be driven with a regular Class C driver's license but that three wheel vehicles steered with handlebars are motorcycles that require a Class M license.

HB 153 (Rogers, 10th) – Move American Indian Concerns to DNR

This legislation would move the Council on American Indian Concerns from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget to the Department of Natural Resources.

HB 183 (Dickey, 140th) – Transfer Geospatial Advisory Council to DCA

This legislation would transfer the Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council that currently exists under EPD to DCA. It is currently set to sunset on June 30.

HB 264 (Efstration, 104th) – Increase GWCC Bonding Capacity

This legislation would increase the Georgia World Congress Center Authority's bonding capacity from \$200 million to \$400 million.

HB 202 (Powell, 171st) – Raise Governor's Pay and Reconstitute State Commission on Compensation

This legislation would raise the Governor's salary to \$175,000. Currently it is about \$139,000.

It would allow legislators to use their state office funds for activities outside the state, subject to regulations by the House and Senate Administrative Affairs Committees. If there is a dispute as to whether an expense is reasonable the Speaker would have final say for House members and the Senate Administrative Affairs Committee would have final say for senators. Expense reports must be signed, and false expense reports would be felonies.

It would reconstitute the State Commission on Compensation by reducing the governor's appointments from four to three, eliminate the requirement that one of the two appointees by the Lt. Governor and Speaker must be experienced in labor-management relations, and removing the four appointees of the Supreme Court. It would no longer allow public officials' families to serve. It would change the per diem from \$59 to match legislative per diem. It would eliminate the requirement that its reports be sent to the judiciary as well as the legislature and Governor, Lt.

Governor, and Secretary of state. It would increase from 30 days to 90 days the time before convening of the General Assembly that the commission would release its report. It would eliminate the requirement that a bill be introduced based on the commission's report.

The commission would also consider changes to legislative expense accounts and salary changes beyond just cost of living adjustments.

HB 412 (Barr, 103rd) – Motor Vehicle Licenses

This legislation would direct DOR to study eliminating the need for an annual vehicle registration sticker and report back to the legislature by January 1, 2018. It would require commercial drivers applying for licenses through the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators International Registration Plan that provides for registration on an apportionment basis to submit applications electronically and no longer bill for registration monthly. It would also require applications for certificates of title to be submitted electronically.

State Purchasing and Contracting

SR 228 (Jones, 25th) – Conveyance Resolution

SR 229 (Jones, 25th) – Easement Resolution

HB 506 (Taylor, 79th) – MARTA Contracts

This legislation would remove the requirement that MARTA issue concession and property sale or lease contracts go to the highest bidder and instead require contracts to be issued pursuant to a “competitive and responsible process.”

Dedications, License Plates, Etc.

SB 169 (Kirk, 13th) – “Back the Badge” License Plate

This legislation would create a “Back the Badge” license plate with funds dedicated to Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund.

SR 204 (Miller, 49th) – Road Dedications

HB 260 (Powell, 32nd) – “Thank a Lineman” License Plate

This legislation would create a “Thank a Lineman” license plate with funds dedicated to the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation that provides housing,

meals, and other support to families of firefighters receiving burn treatment at Doctor's Hospital in Augusta.

HR 25 (Spencer, 180th) – Road Dedications

Transportation

SB 219 (Gooch, 51st) – Autonomous Vehicles

This legislation would allow automated vehicles to operate on Georgia roads without a licensed human driver so long as it can meet the same safety standards as regular cars. If an automated vehicle is in an accident, accident reporting requirements would be satisfied if the vehicle remains on scene and the vehicle or owner promptly contacts law enforcement. The owner maintains insurance 250% of the requirements for a commercial limousine through December 31, 2019 and equivalent to that of a limousine afterward.

HB 58 (Rogers, 10th) – Federal Transportation Update

This legislation would update the definition of present regulations to be federal regulations passed before January 1, 2017 instead of 2016.

HB 134 (Epps, 144th) – TSPLOST

This legislation would allow local governments to use SPLOST funds on state-owned transportation infrastructure. It would allow multiple fractional county TSPLOSTS so long as the total tax does not exceed 1%. It would delay a referendum on a county TSPLOST if there is already a regional TSPLOST vote pending.

HB 328 (Watson, 172nd) – Motor Vehicles

This legislation would increase the minimum weight that is removed from the weight of an overweight vehicle with an idle reducing system for the purposes of determining the penalty from 400 to 550 pounds. It would allow FlexAuto lanes in which people may drive in the emergency lane during rush hour to operate for more than eight hours one way. It would make several administrative changes.

HB 472 (Epps, 144th) – Allow Automated Vehicles to Tailgate

This legislation would exempt from minimum following distance requirements any vehicle travelling in a possession where driving position is automatically coordinated.

Veterans and Military

SB 108 (Walker, 20th) – Women’s Veteran Office

This legislation would create a women’s veteran office under the Department of Veterans’ Services. The office would provide information to women veterans about benefits and services available to them and make sure existing veteran programs meet their needs of women veterans. would also work with veterans’ courts to recruit and train women veteran mentors for other women veterans in veterans’ court.

HB 224 (Belton, 112th) – Allow Military Families to Pick Schools

This legislation would allow military families living on base or in off-base military housing to send their children to any school in the district with capacity. The parents would be responsible for transportation.

HB 245 (Williams, 168th) – Teaching Certificates for Service Member Spouses

This legislation would direct the Professional Standards Commission to create a process to issue temporary teaching certificates, certificates by endorsements, or expedited certificates to teacher spouses of military members moved into Georgia.

HB 322 (Hitchens, 161st) – Expand Eligibility for War Veterans Home

This legislation would change the retirement date for which veterans are eligible to live in the Georgia War Veterans Home from May 7, 1975 to August 1, 1990.

HB 470 (Blackmon, 146th) – Defense Community Economic Development Fund

This legislation would create a Defense Community Economic Development Fund in the Department of Economic Development. to administer grants to provide matching funds to local governments to support initiatives to further the relationship between a local government and a military base, further the base’s economic development into the local government, and assist with defending a base’s viability from a base closure or other review. The Governor’s Defense Initiative would have final review. Funds could not be used to hire a lobbyist.

Study Committees

Joint Study Committees

SR 130 (Hufstetler, 52nd) – Joint Transparency and Open Access in Government Study Committee

SR 152 (Ginn, 47th) – Joint Study Committee on Stream Buffers in Georgia

SR 224 (Ginn, 47th) – Joint Study Committee on Storm-Water Management Fees

Senate Study Committees

SR 188 (Unterman, 45th) – Senate Study Committee on Barriers to Georgians' Access to Adequate Healthcare

SR 222 (Albers, 56th) – Senate Special Tax Exemption Study Committee

SR 352 (Unterman, 45th) – Senate Study Committee on Homelessness

SR 392 (Lucas, 26th) – Senate Rural Georgia Study Committee

SR 410 (Martin, 9th) – Senate Information Technology Corridors in Georgia Study Committee

SR 412 (Kennedy, 18th) – Senate Stroke Trauma Center Study Committee

SR 414 (Mullis, 53rd) – Senate Study Committee on the Utilization and Modernization of the State Capitol and Other Buildings

SR 454 (Thompson, 14th) – Senate Cyber Security Education Study Committee

Bills Failed in the Senate

SR 104 (Heath, 31st) – Prohibit State Ad Valorem Taxes

This resolution would propose a constitutional amendment to prohibit state ad valorem taxes. Formulas that include the state ad valorem tax rate would continue to use the current maximum of 1/4 mil.

Bills Only Passed by the Senate

Bills Not Considered by the House

SB 2 (Dugan, 30th) – Fairness, Accountability, Simplification, and Transparency (FAST) Act

This legislation would require all local governments and state agencies that impose business license or other fees to fee schedule and a timeline to process applications. Applicants would pay 50% of the fee when making an application. If the local government fails to meet a deadline, the amount of the fee is reduced by 10%. Upon approval, the applicant would pay the balance. If the reduction would have put the fee owed below 50%, the local government would issue a refund along with the approval. Delays outside of the local government's control such as due to a natural disaster or a delay from the state or federal government would not count against the timeline so long as the possibility of a delay is included in the fee schedule. It would also require those bodies to create an expedited application process for which it could charge triple fees.

Professional licensing boards would be required establish a process to issue transfer licenses to people that move into the state unless the board determines that provisional licenses would create a public health or safety danger.

Any licensing board or state agency that performs site visits would have to give notice before a site visit and perform the inspection during nonpeak hours, if possible. Surprise health, safety, and welfare visits would still be permitted.

Requirements that would prevent a local government, state agency, or professional licensing boards would not apply. This legislation would not create a private cause of action.

All local governments, professional licensing boards, and state agencies would be required to review their rules and see if it collects information that could be shared to avoid requiring people and businesses to provide duplicate information to multiple agencies. The review must be done by the later of January 1, 2018 or six months from creation.

It would direct DCA to create the voluntary Ready for Partnership program where local governments can receive certification that their permitting and licensing process is fast and efficient. The criteria would be determined by an appointee of the governor, and appointee of the Lt. Governor, an appointee of the Speaker, one appointee recommended by GMA, one appointee recommended by ACCG, and one appointee recommended by the Georgia Chamber.

When a state agency sends a proposed rule to the legislature it would be required to include a summary of the statutory authority in addition to the citation that is currently required, certification that the AG has deemed the rule within the scope of the agency's authority, a fiscal note, and a statement of public costs and benefits of the rule. It would only require a majority vote for the General Assembly to override

proposed rules. Currently, an override that receives a majority vote but not a 2/3 majority goes to the governor for a final approval or veto.

SB 5 (Cowsert, 46th) – Change Education Percentage Goal for Lottery Corporation to a Lower Mandate

This bill would eliminate the provision allowing the lottery corporation to transfer to the state for education less revenue than its current 35% goal and replace it with a mandate that it transfer revenues of 26.5% in 2018, 27.5% in 2019 and 28.5% after 2019. The scheduled increases would not take effect if the Department of Audits determines that there has been a 5% drop in ticket sales from the prior year, in which case the education percentage would be locked in at the current rate with no further increases.

SB 6 (Gooch, 51st) – Georgia Regional Transit Council

This legislation would create the Georgia Regional Transit Council to study statewide transportation issues, develop a master plan to coordinate and improve mobility, and establish targets and report on performance of transit operators' effectiveness.

The Council would consist of three senators, three house members, appointees by the DOT, SRTA, and MARTA heads, the GTA director, the chairs of Fulton, DeKalb, Clayton, Cobb, Gwinnett, Paulding, and Athens-Clarke counties, and the chairs of the Augusta, Columbus, Macon, and Savannah metropolitan planning organizations.

It would release the master plan and performance evaluation by December 31, 2018 unless the Speaker and Lt. Governor extend the time frame to December 31, 2019. The council would then be dissolved.

SB 8 (Unterman, 45th) – Surprise Billing

This legislation would direct the Insurance Commissioner to create an independent dispute resolution entity to review surprise bills for services performed by out of network physicians and other providers at in network hospitals and surgical centers for unexpected issues or when the hospital or surgical center fails to properly inform and receive consent for an out of network referral. It would not cover situations where a properly informed patient is offered an in network provider but elects an out of network provider. The entity would look at all relevant factors to determine a fair price, including fees charged by the provider to other out of network plans, fees paid by the insurers for similar care, specifics of the case, and a usual and customer cost of the procedure based on benchmarks developed by DCH.

If an insurer receives a claim for out of network emergency services, it would pay the amount it thinks it owes based on the DCH benchmarks, other than the co-payment, etc. owed by the patient. The provider could submit a dispute to the

dispute resolution agency. The dispute resolution agency would select either the provider's fee or the insurers payment or could order 10 days of negotiation.

Uninsured patients could submit disputes before having to make a payment.

Patients that receive a surprise bill could assign the benefits to the provider and send it to the dispute resolution agency, at which point the patient would only be liable for copayments, etc. The insurer would pay the bill and attempt to negotiate, at which point either party could submit the bill to the dispute resolution agency.

The dispute resolution process would be paid for by the losing party; in the case of a settlement, the costs would be split evenly.

If a patient incurs out of pocket expenses in excess of the cost to the insurer from an in network provider, the insurer should apply a credit to the patient's account. The credits would not transfer to the next policy period.

Emergency room, critical care, and observation would not be subject to the dispute resolution process but would be billed as no more than 120% of customary cost, and the insurers must ensure that the patient's out of pocket cost does not exceed what it would be for in network care.

It would require health care providers to disclose to patients in writing or online in what plans it is in network and verbally inform patients with which hospitals it is affiliated when an appointment is scheduled. It would require providers at group practices, diagnostics and treatment centers, and health centers that are out of network to inform nonemergency patients in writing of the estimated costs. Physicians would provide patients contact information for any subcontracted providers that operate in the office or to whom patients are referred. Physicians practicing at hospitals would provide that information, along with information about how to determine what plan he or she participates in to patients and the hospital. Hospitals would publish online a schedule of standard charges, what plans it participates in, a statement that physicians may not be in network, contact information for its physicians and contracted physician groups. Upon admission for nonemergency services hospitals would advise patients to contact their physicians to determine their contracted or referred providers and how to check provider networks for those providers.

Insurers would provide enrollees with notice that they may be referred out of network when there is not a nearby in network provider, notice that the enrollee has access to in network primary care, a list of participating providers, information on how to submit a claim, an explanation of how out of network care is billed, and how to calculate the expected cost of out of network care. If an insurer denies an out of network referral because there is an in network provider available, it must inform the enrollee how to appeal.

It would also create an out of network reimbursement rate workgroup comprised of physicians, health plan representatives, consumers and the DCH Commissioner to review out of network rates and recommend an improved methodology. It would release a report by January 1, 2018.

SB 29 (Fort, 39th) – Lead Testing in Schools

This legislation would require public and private schools and child care learning centers to conduct testing on drinking water outlets for lead contamination and to remedy any lead contamination identified by June 30, 2019. If contamination is found, the school must notify parents and staff, place the test results and remediation plan on the school website, and submit the test results and remediation plan to the Department of Public Health. It would direct the Department of Public Health to establish rules and regulations for testing and remediation of lead contamination in schools.

SB 30 (Fort, 39th) – Community Schools

This legislation would create a grant program to establish UP Community Schools that would serve as comprehensive service delivery centers that offer academic, health care, and community involvement programs in addition to existing classroom instruction

SB 40 (Unterman, 45th) – Involuntary Commitment by EMS

This legislation would allow police and responding emergency medical services personnel, such as paramedics and EMTs, to involuntarily commit patients to an emergency mental health facility if the personnel if the responder reasonably believes that the patient is mentally ill and needs involuntary treatment and receives the opinion from the emergency receiving facility's physician that the patient shall be immediately transported to the facility. The responder would issue a report to be put in the patient's clinical record.

It would also create civil immunity for the first responders and the physicians involved. First responder immunity would extend to *all* aspects of transporting the patient, not just the determination of whether to commit.

SB 48 (Heath, 31st) – No Increases for Some Hunting Licenses

This legislation would allow holders of resident hunting licenses, resident big game licenses, and nonresident big game licenses to continually renew licenses at the current price so long as the license doesn't lapse.

SB 50 (Hill, 6th) – Direct Primary Care Act

This legislation would allow for medical practices to that do not bill third parties on a fee for service basis to enter into contracts to provide care at a fixed monthly or

other periodic billing basis. Office visits could not be billed in excess of the monthly fee.

The agreements must be written, include the scope of care that's covered and any additional fees, allow either party to terminate the agreement with 30 days notice, and not require more than a year's payment in advance. Practices could decline to provide care if the patient's medical condition needs care outside of what it can provide and can terminate agreements for fraud, nonpayment, repeated failure of the patient to adhere to the treatment plan, emotional or physical abuse by the patient, or if the practice ceases to be a direct care practice.

SB 73 (Watson, 1st) – Recorder's Court of Chatham County

This legislation would have the judges on the Chatham County Recorder's Court elect the Chief Judge every two years instead of designating the most senior judge as Chief. It would also transfer the position of court administrator from the court to the City of Savannah for administrative purposes.

SB 89 (Shafer, 48th) – Improving Rail Projects

This legislation would create the Georgia Freight Railroad Program under the DOT to, at the discretion of the commissioner and subject to funding, to (1) acquire, lease, and improve railroads and railroad equipment such as crossings, rolling stock, etc., (2) to acquire, lease, and improve short line railroads, and (3) to construct, restructure, and improve industrial access to railroads and railroad facilities.

SB 99 (Parent, 42nd) – End Automatic GCIC Purge of Mental Health Adjudications

This legislation would create a process where a person that had been involuntarily committed could petition the court that did the commitment for reinstatement of firearm rights after he or she is discharged. The court would hold a hearing to determine whether the person is likely to still be a threat. People would not be able to petition more than once every 12 months. It would also require the GCIC to notify the relevant court when a person's rights are being restored at the end of the existing five year period for automatic reinstatement. The court could then hold a hearing to determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence to extend the suspension for another five years.

SB 127 (Kennedy, 18th) – Standing for Victim's Rights Notification

This legislation would allow a victim whose notification rights are violated to file a complaint with the court and seek a hearing and order on the violation. It would not create grounds for a suit for monetary damages.

SB 134 (Shafer, 46th) – Allow Banks to Hold Savings Raffles

This legislation would allow banks and credit unions to hold or contract a third party to manage savings deposit raffles for monetary prizes, so long as depositors are not misled about their chances of winning and the raffle does jeopardize the ability of the bank to conduct its business.

SB 139 (Hill, 6th) – Focused Programs of Study and Leadership Programs

This legislation would add Leadership programs to the list of career-path focused curricula that schools can offer. It would also allow local school systems and charter schools to develop additional career focused pathways, subject to approval by the Board of Education.

SB 154 (Kirk, 13th) – Fine for Violence Against Public Safety Officers

This legislation would impose a \$5,000 fine on people who are convicted of aggravated assault or aggravated battery against peace and correctional officers, first responders, or officers of the court in addition to the 5-20 year (assault) or 10-20 year (battery) sentence. Half of the fine, other than existing earmarks to judicial and law enforcement retirement funds, would go to the Georgia State Indemnification Fund that pays benefits to law enforcement officers and first responders that are killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty and the other half would go to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to fund a PR campaign to encourage law-abiding behavior.

It would also eliminate the \$10,000 maximum civil liability imposed on parents, except for foster care parents, for the acts of their children if the crime is committed against a peace or correctional officer, a first responder, or an officer of the court.

SB 155 (Kirk, 13th) – Local Law Enforcement Officer Compensation Commission

This legislation would create a commission to conduct an review of the salaries and benefits of local law enforcement officers in this state using data and information provided by governing authorities of counties and municipalities. It would be comprised of a police chief appointed by the Georgia Association of police chiefs, a sheriff appointed by the Georgia Sheriff's Association, the executive director or designee of ACCG, the executive director or designee of GMA, two Senators appointed by the Lt. Governor, and two House members appointed by the Speaker. It would be chaired by the Commissioner of Administrative Services.

SB 159 (Anderson, 24th) – Criminal Trespass for Entering Property Marked with Purple Paint

This legislation would add to the methods of committing criminal trespass entering onto property where 8 inch vertical, purple lines have been painted on trees or posts between three and five feet from the ground and at least every 100 feet on forest land or every 1000 feet on non-forested land. Criminal trespass is a misdemeanor.

SB 164 (Millar, 40th) – No Additional Charges for Physical Therapists

This legislation would prohibit insurers from imposing different or higher charges for visits to a physical therapist, occupational therapist, or chiropractor than it charges for visits to a primary care physician or osteopath.

SB 170 (Hill, 6th) – Georgia SERVES Act of 2017

This legislation would create a process for DHS to certify volunteers to work with foster families. It would create three levels of certification. Level I volunteers would be able to provide household help and brief, intermittent babysitting. Level II volunteers would be allowed to babysit for up to 72 hours. All volunteers would be subject to a background check. DHS would develop training requirements for each level of volunteers, including at least two hours of in person training each year. Level II volunteers would also be subject to home assessments, verification of a driver's license if the volunteer will transport children, and a brief psychological assessment. It would also impose additional requirements for volunteers that will work with special needs children. It would create a statewide database of volunteers to be made available to foster care and adoption agencies.

SERVES volunteers would have autonomy to act in any reasonable parental manner. Foster care and adoption agencies would be able to add requirements or reject volunteers.

SR 146 (Kennedy, 18th) – Marsy's Law

This resolution would propose a constitutional amendment to create a victim's rights process where victims would have the option to receive notification of all proceedings and be heard in any proceeding involving the release, plea, sentencing, disposition, or parole of the perpetrator. It would not oblige the state to provide an attorney for a minor, deceased, or incapacitated victim. Victims whose rights are violated would be able to seek a court order to enforce them but not to sue for monetary damages.

Bills Passed in Identical or Similar Form on Other Bills

SB 1 (Cowsert, 46th) – Domestic Terrorism and Make BLM Terrorists

This legislation would expand the crime of domestic terrorism to include any criminal act motivated by ideology intended to kill any individual or group based on shared characteristics, any individual based on presence at any gathering, or any individual based on their presence at any location. It would also classify any activities, violent or non-violent, that disrupt infrastructure as terrorism. Disrupting road traffic is expressly listed. It would expressly state that membership in an organized terrorist organization is not a requirement for domestic terrorism. Current law defines domestic terrorism only as acts intended or reasonably likely to kill more than ten people based on shared characteristics.

It would authorize prosecutors to subpoena names, addresses, phone and internet records, and payment records from telecommunications providers. It would allow the AG to compel production of the records in exchange for immunity related to that matter. DAs and the AG would have concurrent jurisdiction for terrorism cases in one judicial circuit; the AG would have exclusive jurisdiction over cases that span circuits but may delegate the case to or otherwise involve DAs or special attorneys general.

It would expand the prohibition on biological weapons to include any chemical weapons prohibited by chemical weapons treaty. Threats of domestic terrorism would be considered terroristic threats.

It would create a State Department of Homeland Security that would incorporate the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center, the Antiterrorism Task Force, the Airport Antiterrorism Training Committee, and GEMA's antiterrorism duties. It would also oversee state agency safety plans. The department would be overseen by a board of the Governor, agency heads, the directors of the Sheriffs and Police Chiefs associations, and three appointees by the governor. It would be run by a commissioner appointed by the Governor.

It would also direct all state agencies to report any information on known or suspected terrorists to the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

The domestic terrorism part passed on HB 452.

SB 12 (Unterman, 45th) – Expand Dental Hygienist Scope of Practice

This legislation would allow dentists in private offices to authorize up to four dental hygienists with at least two years' experience to perform sealants, oral prophylaxis and assessments, fluoride treatment, oral hygiene instruction, and X-rays without supervision so long as the dentists performs the initial examination, examines the patient at least once a year, and notifies the patient that he or she will be examined by a hygienist.

Hygienists with at least two years' experience would be able to perform fluoride, sealant, and oral prophylaxis treatments in Title I schools with parental approval and oral hygiene instruction without needing parental approval. They would be able to perform fluoride, sealant, and oral prophylaxis in hospitals and other in-patient facilities so long as emergency care is available. They would be required to provide notice to the patient of their authorizing dentist, any issues observed, and a recommendation to see a dentist unless a dentist had initially examined the patient.

Hygienists employed by DPH and county boards of health would be able to work without direct supervision at approved offsite locations in addition to the currently allowed DPH, county board of health, and Department of Corrections locations.

This passed as HB 154

SB 45 (Walker, 20th) – Upskirting

This legislation would make it illegal to film or photograph a person under or through his or her clothing without consent and make it illegal to share that image or recording. Violation would be punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of no more \$100,000, or both, unless the court reduces it to a misdemeanor.

This passed as part of SB 104.

SB 46 (Ligon, 3rd) – Tort Immunity for Space Flight

This legislation would provide tort immunity to private space flight companies for any injuries to passengers or other non-crew persons that are injured through an inherent risk of space flight. It would require any participant to sign a warning and waiver advertising these risks.

This passed as HB 1.

SB 81 (Unterman, 54th) – Opiate Addiction

This legislation would give the state health officer the authority to issue statewide standing orders permitting people entities or categories of people or entities to obtain opioid antagonists (NARCAN) from pharmacies. Pharmacies would be required to maintain a copy of the order and records of all opioid antagonists distributed.

It would require pharmacies that are required to report scheduled prescription drugs to make daily instead of weekly. It would allow information from the statewide prescription database to be used to analyze a patient's usage in addition to abuse and misuse.

It would require prescribers to review information from the data base whenever prescribing benzodiazepines or opiates to a patient for the first time and at least

every 90 days thereafter if prescription continues, unless the patient is in hospice, the patient is inpatient with drugs issued from an on site pharmacy, the patient is receiving methadone or buprenorphine to treat addiction, the prescription is for three days or fewer, or the system is down.

It would limit initial prescriptions for benzodiazepines or opiates to five days unless necessary to treat for palliative care, acute pain, chronic pain, cancer or substance abuse. Knowing or intentional failure to use the system would be punished as an under \$200 misdemeanor for a first offense, a \$200 - \$500 misdemeanor for a second offense, a \$400 to \$5,000 high and aggravated misdemeanor for a third offense, and a felony of 1-5 years and a \$50,000 fine for subsequent offenses.

It would require health care providers, coroners, and medical examiners to report instances of neonatal abstinence syndrome where a newborn was exposed to addictive drugs in the womb to DPH who would release an annual report on the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome in Georgia.

It would give DCH the authority to conduct onsite inspections of narcotic treatment programs and require programs to report patient outcomes to DCH.

Versions of this legislation passed on HB 249 and SB 121.

SB 202 (Rhett, 33rd) – Increase Nursing Home Personal Allowance

This legislation would, subject to appropriation, increase the monthly personal needs allowance for Medicaid recipients in nursing homes to \$70.

This passed on HB 206.

SB 166 (Unterman, 45th) – Nurse Licensure Compact

This legislation would enter Georgia into a compact to allow nurses to obtain multistate licenses. State licensing boards would still have the ability to take disciplinary actions against nurses practicing in that state. It would create the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators made up of one administrator from each state to oversee the compact.

It would take effect upon the adoption by 26 states or December 31, 2018, whichever is earlier. 25 are currently part of the original NLC.

This passed on SB 109.

SB 191 (Jeffares, 17th) – Pipeline Permitting

This legislation would require any construction of a new pipeline or extension of an existing one to receive a permit from EPD. Applicants would provide a map, proof of financial responsibility, and information on geologic features, areas of historical significance, and impacted endangered species. Applicants would have to provide

notice to all landowners whose properties may be condemned or acquired and must run an ad in the local legal organ. The EPD director would consider the application, environmental impacts, potential alternative siting, and comments from the public and affected local governments. Affected landowners may intervene to oppose the pipeline. Others would be able to petition for a separate hearing to challenge the issuance of the permit on the grounds that they are adversely affected within 30 days.

New pipelines and pipelines that seek to use eminent domain would require a certificate of need from GEFA. Prior to initiating eminent domain, the company would have to specifically notify the landowners that they have statutory rights. The CON application must include siting details, what interests will be served, and anything else required by GEFA. The GEFA director would determine whether the pipeline is necessary to meet demand and whether the benefit outweighs the environmental risks. Any person would be able to petition for a separate hearing to challenge the issuance of the CON on the grounds that they are adversely affected within 30 days.

It would eliminate the State Commission on Petroleum Pipelines that was created last year to examine pipeline construction and eminent domain laws. It would also eliminate the moratorium that is set to end June 30, 2017.

This passed as HB 413.

SB 216 (Henson, 41st) – Allow Tucker to Negotiate Road Repairs

This legislation would eliminate the provision that cities created after May 4, 2015 in a HOST county and don't maintain their own (Tucker) would automatically give their SPLOST revenues to the county and instead allow them to execute IGAs to decide what projects will be done.

This passed on SB 156.

SB 221 (Unterman, 45th) – Allow Optometrists to Perform Injections

This legislation would allow optometrists that have completed 30 hours of training in performing injections to inject medicines around the eye. It would not allow injections into the eyeball itself or allow the injection of hydrocodone.

This passed as SB 153.

SB 241 (Unterman, 45th) – Transfer the Prescription Database to DPH

This legislation would transfer the database that tracks prescriptions of controlled substances to DPH. It would allow the database to be used for health oversight and epidemiology research in addition to preventing abuse. It would clarify that DPH could require updates to the database more often than weekly. It would clarify that

the information in the database may be provided to the GBI for enforcement purposes. It would clarify that any information provided for research or educational purposes to be de-identified to comply with HIPAA and allow that data to be used for instruction and substance abuse prevention as well.

Most language was included in HB 249.

Bills Failed to Pass Both Houses in Identical Form

SB 3 (Tippins, 37th) – Creating Opportunities Needed Now to Expand Credentialed Training (CONNECT) Act

This legislation would limit the requirement for schools to provide career oriented learning to only apply to grades six through twelve and clarify that it includes work based learning programs such as internships. It would also no longer allow career awareness to satisfy the requirement. Current law requires career oriented learning in all grades but does expressly reference work based learning.

It would expand “move on when ready” to include enrollment in college and technical school courses in skilled trades and emerging technology fields in addition to the current provision for areas with an employment shortage. It would direct TCSG to consult with industry representatives what fields are eligible. Students would be eligible for work based learning at 15 instead of 16.

It would include TCSG and industries in the development of content standards for career-path focused curricula along with DOE, include industry standards in the curriculum standards, and add energy to the list of careers available for focus. DOE and TCSG would maintain a list of industry credentials required in Georgia to be provided to students.

It would direct all curriculum, testing, graduation, etc. standards to use standards from relevant industries and, when appropriate, industry credentialing programs where students are able to receive a nationally recognized certification or state license. DOE would produce an annual report of the effectiveness of industry credentialing programs.

It would create state grant programs to assist in the purchase or upgrade of equipment needed to promote career education in areas with a workforce need, skilled trades, and emerging technology fields. Multiple school systems could apply for grants for shared facilities. It would also establish grants for high schools to partner with technical schools and college and career academies to promote industry credentialing programs.

SB 4 (Unterman, 45th) – Enhancing Mental Health Treatment in Georgia Act

This legislation would create a Georgia Mental Health Treatment Task Force to study the issues of substance abuse and mental illness to develop recommendations

for how the state can better provide effective care and services to those suffering from and at risk for, serious mental illness and substance abuse disorder. It would be composed of 3 House members appointed by the Speaker, 3 members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and 11 members appointed by the Governor. The Governor's appointees would include agency heads and representatives from the Sheriff's association, advocacy groups, treatment facilities, and a community service board. The task force would create an application for Medicaid block grants for mental illness and substance abuse disorders prevention and treatment.

SB 71 (Stone 23rd) – Exempt HSAs from Bankruptcy

This legislation would allow bankruptcy filers to exempt health or medical savings accounts from the estate.

HB 15 (Willard, 51st) – Electronic Filing

This legislation would require the consent of the DA for superior courts and the solicitor for state courts to go all electronic for filings, payments, and remittances.

Civil cases in superior and state would be required to be filed electronically starting in 2018. Courts could charge fees of up to \$7.00 per filing, plus fees of 3.5% + 30¢ for processing credit cards or bank drafts. Fees would not be remitted to any government agency. Electronic filing would not be required for filings made under a pauper's affidavit, to which access is restricted by the court, or in counties under a state of emergency. Attorneys would be allowed to file for free at the courthouse but the courts may require the use of a public access terminal on site. Courts could permit but not require non-attorneys to file electronically. Electronically filed documents would be considered filed at the time of upload. Clerks would be prohibited from entering into contracts to use a single filing provider.

Attorneys that file electronically would automatically consent to receive electronic service in the future.

HB 150 (Powell, 32nd) – Setoff Debt Collection for SRTA Fines

This legislation would allow the State Road and Tollway Authority to collect unpaid fines for failing to pay tolls through setoff collection against income tax returns.

It would also end the sunset on using CPI to adjust the motor fuel tax.

HB 205 (Meadows, 5th) – Fracking

This legislation would regulate hydraulic fracturing in Georgia. It would require public notice to be given of any application for fracking, including the fluid to be

used and the estimated amounts and disposal methods of wastewater. The board would determine regulations to monitor groundwater within 1/2 mile of any borehole, disclosure of the fracking fluid so long as trade secrets are protected, provisions for the disposal of fracking fluids, and provisions for decommissioning bore sites and other facilities. It would raise from 75% to 85% the percentage of ownership that needs to sign off on a unitization contract when DNR determines that an entire oil or gas pool needs to be operated as a single resource for environmental protection purposes.

It would also allow the Board of Natural Resources to delegate oil and gas permitting to an Oil and Gas Board consisting of the state geologist and three appointees of the Governor in any year in which it receives 12 or more permit applications.

It would increase the permit cost for a non-water well from \$25 to \$500 and allow for public notice and input. Applicants would have to provide notice directly by a sign on the closest road, delivery to property owners within 1/2 mile, and a legal ad. Permits would include requirements for testing well casings, requirements for maintaining roads affected by drilling or fracking, and buffers to protect neighboring property owners from noise or pollution. It would raise the maximum bond for drilling from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

It would expressly allow local governments to issue further land use restrictions.

It would levy an extraction tax of 3¢ per barrel of oil and 1¢ per thousand feet of gas. Local governments would be able to levy a tax of up to 9¢ per barrel of oil and 2¢ per thousand feet of gas.

HB 217 (Carson, 46th) – Raise SSO Cap

This legislation would raise the annual aggregate cap for dollar for dollar tax credits for donations to student scholarship organizations from \$58 million to \$65 million. Instead of issuing tax credits on a first come, first served basis, DOR would allow people to apply for the tax credits during the first ten business days of the year and then allocate credits pro rata among those applicants. SSOs would be required to disclose any fees or assessments retained by the SSO. It would require SSOs to allocate at least 97% of funds to scholarships instead of the current requirement to allocate between 90 and 95% based on size. SSO board members would only be able to serve on one SSO board. DOR would set the date for SSOs to submit their annual report instead of fixing it in statute, and the report would also have to include the average scholarship amounts by quartile.

HB 222 (Blackmon, 146th) – In-State Residency for National Guard Members

This legislation would treat national guard and reserve members as in-state for the purposes of HOPE eligibility, the same as currently done for active duty military.

It would also eliminate the provision allowing the lottery corporation to transfer to the state for education less revenue than its current 35% goal and replace it with a mandate that it transfer revenues of 26.5% in 2018, 27.5% in 2019 and 28.5% after 2019. The scheduled increases would not take effect if the Department of Audits determines that there has been a 5% drop in ticket sales from the prior year, in which case the education percentage would be locked in at the current rate with no further increases.

HB 329 (Powell, 171st) – Reduce Top Tax Bracket and Other Changes

This legislation would reduce Georgia's top income tax rate that kicks in at \$7,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for a couple from 6% to 5.65%. It would automatically adjust tax brackets to account for inflation. It would increase the standard deduction from \$7,400 to \$8,000 for couples filing jointly, from \$3,700 to \$4,000 for married filers filing singly, from \$2,700 to \$3,000 for single filers, from \$2,700 to \$3,000 for estates, and from \$1,375 to \$1,500 for trusts and automatically adjust those values for inflation. It would eliminate the deduction allowing people to effectively deduct their state taxes twice by no longer incorporating the federal deduction for state taxes and automatically adjust all deduction caps for inflation.

It is also HB 61 that would also require all out of state companies that sell more than \$250,000 worth of property or conduct more than 200 sales into Georgia to pay sales tax. DOR could bring an action for a declaratory judgment that a company is liable for taxes under this provision. Companies that do not pay taxes under this provision would send a tax statement to any customer that purchased over \$500 worth of goods that they owe state use taxes. Failure to provide notice of the sales tax would be a \$5/incident fine and failure to send or file the sales tax statement would be \$10/incident fines.

Bills Failed in the House

SB 152 (Jones, 10th) – Limit How Long Students can be Sent to Alt School

This legislation wouldn't allow schools to send students 16 and under to alternative school for longer than the duration of the semester so long as the student behaves in the alternative school, unless the student committed assault, battery, bullying, or possession of drugs or alcohol. Students being suspended for those serious offenses would be entitled to a hearing to return to regular school after two semesters. Students that bring weapons to school would remain subject to the current year plus expulsion.

SR 192 (Wilkinson, 50th) – Elected School Superintendents

This resolution would propose a constitutional amendment to allow the General Assembly to pass local legislation to make a school district's superintendent elected.

Note: Unfavorably reported from committee. Did not receive floor vote.

Appendix A: SB 174 – Criminal Justice Reform

Part I: Accountability Courts

- This legislation would remove veteran courts' ability to adopt policies that differ from the standards and practices adopted by the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia (Council). The Council would create a certification and review process for veterans' court practices. After September 1, veterans' courts would have to be certified or receive a waiver to continue receiving state funds. The council would create an electronic information system to measure performance of veteran courts for certification and recertification every three years.
- It would include DFCS employees in the planning group to create a work plan outlining the policies for a family treatment court. The Council of Accountability Court Judges would create a certification process for a family treatment court division requesting state grant funds to fund a family treatment court judge.
- It would require a court instituting a family treatment court division to perform the same periodic reviews of cases where a child has been returned to a home as are currently done by juvenile courts.
- It would expand to 12 months from 6 months the time period that a parent must pass drug tests before getting a child back that was removed due to substance abuse. It would consider successful completion of family treatment court to satisfy the treatment requirement.
- It would require county DFCS boards to create a protocol to direct neglect and abuse cases to family treatment courts when appropriate.

Part 2: Post-Conviction

- When a defendant with no prior felonies is convicted to a sentence that is entirely probation, the courts would set an incentive date of no more than three years after sentencing, and if the offender has completed probation and not been arrested, then probation would be terminated, unless the prosecutor objects within 30 days.
- It would require prisons to revalidation their risk and needs assessment that determines how inmates are managed by January 1, 2019 and every 5 years

after. It would also reevaluate programming at all facilities other than state prisons by January 1, 2019 and every five years after. Assessments would be sent to the Senate and House Judiciary committees instead of the State Institutions and Property committees.

- It would require the Board of Community Supervision to evaluate its risk and needs assessment for handling probationers and the quality of programming used at day reporting centers using evidence based practices by January 1, 2019 and every five years after. It would also have the authority to act alone or cooperate with TCSG to provide educational programs for probationers to encourage employment and would create a certificate symbolizing a probationer's achievements toward successful reentry into society. Assessments would be sent to the Senate and House Judiciary committees instead of the State Institutions and Property committees.
- It would require the commissioner of corrections to prepare a summary of the conduct record of any inmate serving a sentence for a serious violent felony that would be considered by the Board of Pardons and Paroles when evaluating an inmate. It would allow prosecutors and parolees to request a copy of the record after a parole or conditional release determination.
- It would authorize probation officers to supervise defendants who are participants in a drug, mental, or veterans court program.
- It would allow restitution to be a condition of probation. It would require courts to consider a defendant's financial position when imposing probation fees other than restitution. It would allow payment of probation fines and fees through community service in the same manner as for other fines. It would allow courts to waive fines and probation fees for financial hardship when the defendant has a developmental disability, is totally and permanently disabled, is indigent, or has been released for more than 30 days incarceration within the past year.
- It would only require mandatory review of probated sentences when the original sentence isn't probated and raise the time frame requiring review from two years of sentence probated to three. The report would specifically state whether the defendant has been arrested and his or her progress toward paying restitution, fines, and fees. It would also direct DCS to terminate probation after three years if the defendant has paid all restitution, not been arrested, and not has his or her probation revoked. This would be retroactive.
- It would require the Board of Pardons and Paroles to address all the terms of probation in the parole conditions for a person serving a split sentence. The Board would not be allowed to require supervision fees to be paid in advance. The board of parole would have the option to send a parolee who violates the terms of release to a probation detention center for up to 180

days or a substance abuse treatment facility in addition to regular jail or prison.

- It would require the board to give a second written notification to the district attorney 90 days prior to making a final decision on parole or conditional release for someone convicted of a serious violent felony. If there is an objection made to a grant of parole, then it must give the district attorney 30 days notice and allow the district attorney to present evidence and the potential parolee to submit information. It would only require the board to notify victims of its decision when a victim has expressed a desire to receive such notification and has provided a current email address or phone number.
- When considering a case for release earlier than the first automatic parole date, the board would be required to notify the sentencing judge, DA, and victims or next of kin if the crime was a violent crime and the victim has provided a current email address or phone number. If the board grants early parole over an objection, it would provide an explanation to the objecting party.
- It would require the board to review cases of non-violent parolees and conditional releasees after the person has successfully completed 12 consecutive months of parole supervision to consider commutation.

Appendix B: HB 338 – School Intervention and Takeover

- Chief Turnaround Officer
 - Appointed by the state Board of Education after consultation with the state school superintendent and the Education Turnaround Advisory Council and conducting a national search
 - Qualifications
 - Principal or higher in public school system for 5+ years
 - Extensive experience in turning around failing schools
 - Would identify potential resources and best practices
- Turnaround Coaches
 - Recommended by CTO after consulting with state school superintendent and approved by BOE
 - Could address social issues confronting schools
 - Would conduct screen all students to diagnose issues leading to poor performance, including nonacademic issues such as physical and mental health and out of school support
 - Turnaround coaches would provide low performing students with internal and external support and services
 - Governor’s Office of Student achievement would be authorized to provide grants for these services
- Takeover Process

- CTO would identify low performing schools that had performed in the bottom 5% of schools pursuant to federal standards
- Would intervene in all schools on the list if possible otherwise would look at
 - Whether the school has been improving
 - Whether the charter or strategic waiver contract addresses the issues
 - Deficiencies identified in the district's accreditation report
 - Whether the district has more than 50% of schools poorly performing
 - Physical proximity to schools subject to intervention
 - Any other factors determined by the CTO
- Targeted school systems would be required to contract with the CTO
 - School systems that refuse to enter into a contract would immediately be subject to sanctions (see below) or revocation of its charter or strategic waiver contract
 - The turnaround coach would conduct an evaluation of why the school is performing poorly.
 - The evaluation could be performed by a third party contractor selected by the local board from a list determined by the CTPO through an RFP
 - The school system, at its own expense, could hire the contractor
 - Turnaround coach would recommend changes to governance and instructional strategies
 - School would develop a turnaround plan in conjunction with CTO
 - Schools would have priority for funds through the Public Education Innovation Fund Foundation or need based grants through GOSA
 - If the school does not improve after three years, the CTO could impose sanctions
 - Continue the turnaround plan
 - Remove personnel determined to be ineffective
 - Convert the school to a state charter school
 - Fire all staff and administration. Staff whose performance hasn't been negative for four years could reapply
 - Allow parents to send children to a different school. The district would provide funding for transportation from Title I schools. Transportation from non-Title 1 schools would be subject to state funding
 - Completely restructure the school's governance agreement and internal organization

- Turn the school over to a successful system. Funding would be determined by the Board of Education
 - Turn it over to a private nonprofit operator approved by the local board pursuant to an RFP
 - Any other interventions determined by the CTO
 - Schools could request a hearing before BOE on whether the sanctions are necessary
- Education Turnaround Advisory Council
 - Under BOE
 - ED of Georgia School Boards Association, ED of Georgia School Superintendents Association, ED of PAGE, ED of GAE, president of the Georgia PTA, Educators First, ED of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders or their designees and two appointees each by the Lt. Governor and Speaker.
 - Recommend criteria for the CTO and can recommend candidates
 - Provide input into the third party evaluation contractors
 - No formal power; only advisory
- Joint Study Committee on the Establishment of a State Accreditation Process
 - Study the pros and cons of state level accreditation
 - Three Senators appointed by the Lt. Governor, Three House Members appointed by the Speaker, the State School Superintendent or his or her designee, the BOE chair or his or her designee, the State Charter Schools Commission chair or his or her designee, the director of the Office of Student Achievement or his or her designee, the USG Chancellor or his or her designee, one local school board member appointed by the Governor, one local superintendent appointed by the Governor, one principal appointed by the Governor, one teacher appointed by the Governor, and one parent appointed by the Governor
 - Would issue a report and legislation, if it decides legislation is appropriate, by December 31, 2017. The report must be approved by a majority vote of the committee; if no majority vote can be reached, the chairs would provide the minutes to the General Assembly
- Joint Study Committee on the Establishment of a Leadership Academy
 - Study establishing a leadership academy under the PSC to provide training to principals and other school leaders
 - One Republican and one Democratic Senator appointed by the Lt. Governor, one Republican and one Democratic House member appointed by the Speaker, the TCSG commissioner or his or her designee, the USG chancellor or his or her designee, ED of the PSC or his or her designee, and two local superintendents, two principals, one BOE member, one local board of education member, one DOE staffer, and one Governor's staffer, all appointed by the Governor.
- Removal of school boards

- Governor could remove school boards when systems or schools are about to lose accreditation for any reason, not just governance related issues
- If more than half the schools in a district are rated as poorly performing by GOSA for five years, BOE would hold hearing on whether to recommend that the Governor remove all board members
- Removal wouldn't apply to districts under a turnaround contract that are in compliance
- Other Provisions
 - It would extend the initial term for charter systems from five to six years. Renewal terms would remain up to ten years.
 - BOE would create an annual report detailing schools deemed poorly performing and schools that have been taken over

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