

2018 Legislative Update
Week 6– February 16, 2018

Legislative Days 19 – 22

The Georgia General Assembly completed day 22 of its 40 day session on Thursday, February 15. “Cross-over” day is quickly approaching and will fall on legislative day 28 this session rather than the usual day 30. The Legislature will reconvene on Tuesday, February 20, at 10:00 am. The legislature will be in session four days next week from Tuesday, February 20, through Friday, February 23. If you would like to review the full legislative calendar for the remainder of the 2018 session you may do so [here](#).

Committees & Bills of Interest:

Budget:

The Senate passed [HB 683](#), its version of the FY18 Supplemental Budget on Thursday, February 15. A Conference Committee will be appointed to iron out any differences between the House and Senate versions. Then focus will shift to the FY19 budget.

Transportation:

Representative Kevin Tanner’s [HB 930](#) and Senator Brandon Beach’s [SB 386](#) both attempt to expand and coordinate transit in the Metro region. Representative Tanner held a press conference about HB 930 on Tuesday, February 13; click [here](#) to read the press release. HB 930 was heard in the House Transportation Subcommittee on Thursday, February 15. The House subcommittee will hold another hearing on HB 930 on Tuesday, February 20, at 2:00 pm. SB 386 was heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on Monday, February 12. Senator Beach will provide a substitute for SB 386 at the Transportation Committee’s next meeting on Tuesday, February 20, at 8:00 am.

Tax:

The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House engaged in discussions regarding the impact of the federal tax reform. Following those discussions Governor Deal introduced [HB 918](#) on Tuesday, February 13 which addresses state revenue projections. The bill would allow Georgia taxpayers the opportunity to take the increased standard deduction at the federal level while having the option of taking either the standard or itemized deductions at the state level.

Regulated Industries and Utilities:

[SB 355](#), by Senator Chuck Hufstetler, limits the charges to customer bills for future nuclear projects and requires utility companies to seek prior authorization from Congress before pursuing new nuclear projects. The Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee heard and passed the bill on Thursday, February 15.

[SB 17](#), by Senator Renee Unterman, known as the “brunch bill” was presented on the Senate Floor on Tuesday, February 13. The bill would allow alcohol to be sold on Sundays within specific time frames. The Senate passed the bill with a vote of 38-18 and it moved to the House where it was assigned to the House Regulated Industries Committee.

Small Business Committee:

[SB 2](#) authored by Senator Dugan was heard by the House Small Business Development Committee on Thursday, February 16. The bill is titled the “Fairness, Accountability, Simplification, and Transparency” (FAST) Act. It aims to enhance accountability and notice requirements for agency rulemaking in order to reduce regulatory burdens on businesses. The bill passed and is now in House Rules.

For detailed information on specific legislation, visit the General Assembly’s website [here](#).

The Douglas County Chamber is part of the Regional Business Coalition of Metropolitan Atlanta (RBC), an organization of over a dozen of the largest and most active Chambers of Commerce throughout the metro Atlanta region. RBC member chambers represent over 15,000 member companies who employ millions of metro Atlanta residents. The RBC’s primary goal is to represent the interests of RBC Chamber members on regional public policy issues impacting our transportation, water and air quality and to advocate for solutions that improve metro Atlanta’s quality of life and economic vitality.