

2018 Legislative Update
Week 10 – March 16, 2018

Legislative Days 33-35

The Georgia General Assembly completed day 35 of its 40 day session on Thursday, March 15. On Monday, March 19 the Senate will reconvene at 10:00 a.m. and the House will reconvene at 11:00 a.m. The legislature will be in session for three days next week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for legislative days 36-38. Tuesday and Thursday are committee work days. Two weeks of the session are left before Sine Die on March 29. If you would like to review the full legislative calendar for the remainder of the 2018 session you may do so [here](#).

Bills & Committees of Interest:

Transportation:

[HB 930](#) by Representative Kevin Tanner (Dawsonville) and [SB 386](#) by Senator Brandon Beach (Alpharetta) both attempt to expand and coordinate transit in the metro region. HB 930 passed in the Senate Transportation Committee on Monday, March 12 but was substituted with SB 386. HB 930 is awaiting action in the Senate Rules Committee and SB 386 is awaiting action in the House Rules Committee.

Economic & Workforce Development:

[HB 696](#) by Representative Trey Kelley (Cedartown) creates a tax exemption for certain high technology computer equipment used in data centers. The bill was heard in the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday, March 14 and will be heard again by the committee on Monday, March 19 at 8:00 am.

[HB 793](#) by Representative Dominic Lariccia (Douglas) allows for aquarium construction. The bill passed the Senate Rules Committee on Thursday, March 15 and will be voted on by the full Senate on Monday, March 19.

[SB 3](#), the “CONNECT Act,” by Senator Lindsey Tippins (Marietta) aims to identify critical workforce needs and provide students with opportunities to earn industry credentials in those fields. The conference committee report for the bill was unanimously adopted by the Senate on Wednesday, March 14. The bill will now be sent to the Governor for his signature.

Judiciary:

[HR 993](#) by Representative Chuck Efstrotation (Dacula) proposes an amendment to the Constitution to create a business court with statewide jurisdiction. The bill was heard on Monday, March 12 by the Senate Judiciary Committee and is awaiting further action.

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

The Douglas County Chamber is a 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.