

2018 Weekly Legislative Update

Week 12 – Sine Die

Legislative Days 39-40

Last week marked the end of the 2018 Georgia General Assembly's Legislative Session. The legislature completed Sine Die, day 40 of its 40 day session, after midnight on Thursday, March 29.

Transportation:

[HB 930](#) by Representative Kevin Tanner (R- Dawsonville) allows for the expansion and coordination of transit in the metro region. The House and Senate adopted the Conference Committee report on HB 930 on Thursday, March 29 and the bill awaits the Governor's approval.

[SB 445](#) sponsored by Senator Steve Gooch (R- Dahlonega) provides standards for contracts entered into by the Department of Transportation. The bill requires that all contracts to be let by public bid be advertised on the department's website at least two weeks prior to the opening of the bid. The bill also states that when a department contract is expected to exceed \$300 million, performance and payment bonds are required. The House agreed to the Senate substitute to SB 445 on Thursday, March 29 and awaits the Governor's approval.

[SR 882](#) sponsored by Senator Burt Jones (R- Jackson) creates the Senate Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport Operations and Authority Creation study committee. The resolution passed on Tuesday, March 27 and awaits the Governor's approval.

Economic Development:

[HB 696](#) by Representative Trey Kelley (R- Cedartown) creates a tax exemption for certain high technology computer equipment used in data centers. The House agreed to the Senate's substitute to HB 696 on Thursday, March 29 and the bill awaits the Governor's approval.

[HB 793](#) by Representative Dominic Lariccia (R- Douglas) allows for a sales tax exemption for construction at the Georgia Aquarium. The bill passed on Monday, March 19 and awaits the Governor's approval.

[HB 918](#) by Representative Chuck Efstrotation (R- Dacula) reduces Georgia's income tax rate. The bill passed on Thursday, March 1. Governor Deal signed HB 918 into law on Friday, March 2.

[SB 395](#) sponsored by Senator Ben Watson (R- Savannah) creates a joint military commission to prepare for potential base realignment and advise on other military and defense related matters. The Senate agreed to the House substitute to the bill on Thursday, March 29 and awaits the Governor's approval.

[SR 1068](#) sponsored by Senator Steve Gooch (R- Dahlongega), creates a study committee to evaluate the school year calendar for Georgia public schools. The bill passed on Tuesday, March 27 and awaits the Governor's approval.

[HB 61](#) sponsored by Representative Jay Powell (R- Camilla) allows the state to collect sales tax on online purchases through either direct collection by the retailer or by notification of the tax amount to the consumer and the state. The House agreed to the Senate's substitute to HB 61 on Thursday, March 29 and the bill awaits the Governor's approval.

[SB 17](#) sponsored by Senator Renee Unterman (R- Buford), the "Brunch Bill" allows governing authorities of counties and municipalities to change the time on Sunday during which alcohol may be sold. The bill passed on Monday, March 12 and awaits the Governor's approval.

Education & Workforce Development:

[HB 739](#) sponsored by Representative Al Williams (D- Midway) creates licensure reciprocity for military spouses moving from one of Georgia's military installations. The bill passed on Wednesday, March 21 and awaits the Governor's approval.

[HB 787](#) sponsored by Representative Scott Hilton (R- Peachtree Corners) increases funding for state charter schools. The Senate agreed to the House substitute to the bill on Thursday, March 29 and the bill awaits the Governor's approval.

[SB 3](#) sponsored by Senator Lindsey Tippins (R- Marietta) creates a career pathway for students to earn industry certification and credentials. The Senate adopted the conference committee report for the bill on Wednesday, March 14 and the bill awaits the Governor's approval.

Judiciary:

[HR 993](#) sponsored by Representative Chuck Efstoration (R- Dacula) proposes an amendment to the Constitution to create a business court with statewide jurisdiction. The House agreed to the Senate substitute to HR 993 on Thursday, March 29 and the bill awaits the Governor's approval.

[HB 673](#) sponsored by Representative John Carson (R- Marietta), the "Distracted Driving Bill," prohibits any action that would distract a driver and adds penalties for using handheld devices. The House agreed to the Senate substitute to HB 673 on Thursday, March 29 and the bill awaits the Governor's approval.

The Regional Business Coalition of Metropolitan Atlanta (RBC) is 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.