



## **2020 Weekly Legislative Update Week 3 – January 31, 2019**

### **Legislative Days 5-9**

The General Assembly completed the second week of the 2019 Session on Friday, January 31, marking day 9 of the 40-day legislative session. The legislature will reconvene on Monday, February 3 and will be in session through Thursday, February 6 for legislative days 10-13. The RBC will hold our Board meeting at the Capitol on Tuesday, February 4 at 9 am, which will provide us an opportunity to hear from State leaders and meet with our lawmakers.

### **Business & Industry:**

[HB 230](#) sponsored by Representative Scott Holcomb (D-Atlanta) creates "Benefit Corporations" as an option for corporate structure in Georgia. Currently, 34 states have similar corporate structures, all geared towards accommodating businesses that welcome the dual role of creating shareholder profit and creating a positive social impact. The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee this week and awaits action in the Senate Rules Committee.

### **Economic Development:**

[SR 84](#) sponsored by Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta) allows for horse racing in Georgia. The Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee held a hearing on Thursday but no action was taken on the bill.

### **Education and Workforce:**

[HB 444](#) sponsored by Representative Bert Reeves (R-Marietta), the "Dual Enrollment Act" passed the House of Representatives last session and is supported by Governor Kemp. HB 444 adjusts the number of credit hours allowed under the dual enrollment program to a maximum of 30, while limiting the grade levels allowed to participate and restricts the credit hours students take to primarily core courses. HB 444 passed the Senate by a vote of 34 – 18.

## **Taxation:**

[HB 276](#) sponsored by Representative Brett Harrell (R-Snellville) was signed into law by Governor Kemp on Thursday. Known as the marketplace facilitator bill, it will bring greater parity between online and brick and mortar retailers with respect to the collection and remittance of sales taxes to the state.

[HB 448](#) sponsored by Representative Matt Dollar (R-Marietta) known as the lodging facilitator bill was heard in the Public Finance & Policy Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday. A lodging facilitator is a person that contracts with someone to facilitate accommodations on behalf of another person or assists the owner of the accommodations in making retail sales by renting the accommodations. The bill works to make sure taxes are paid in the same manner as in [HB 276](#).

[HB 538](#) sponsored by Representative Todd Jones (R-South Forsyth) passed the House Judiciary Committee on Thursday with a unanimous vote. HB 538 requires courts and the Georgia Tax Tribunal to decide all question of law regarding the proper interpretation of revenue and taxation-related statutes or regulations without deference to the Department of Revenue's interpretation of the statute or regulation in dispute.

## **Transportation:**

The Senate and House Transportation Committees met on Thursday for a joint hearing. At the meeting, Commissioner Russell McMurry from the Georgia Department of Transportation presented the 10-year plan – you can view the presentation [here](#) and watch the entire Committee hearing [here](#).

During the meeting, they released the report and recommendations from the Freight & Logistics Commission that can be viewed [here](#). Two of the recommendations were included in bills that passed out of the House Transportation Committee immediately following the joint committee meeting.

[HR 935](#) sponsored by Chairman Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville) reauthorizes the Freight and Logistics Commission for another year to continue the work of determining the best course of action with regard to funding and policy development relating to freight and logistics through legislative and budgetary recommendations. The bill passed the House Transportation Committee and awaits action in the House Rules Committee.

[HB 820](#) sponsored by Chairman Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville) establishes a Georgia Freight Railroad Program within the Department of Transportation. The program would enhance the state's investment in freight rail projects, is administered by the commissioner and is subject to appropriations. It is composed of three subprograms: rail enhancement, rail preservation and rail industrial. The bill passed the House Transportation Committee and awaits action in House Rules Committee.

*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.*