



## **2020 Legislative Update February 21, 2020**

The General Assembly reconvened on Tuesday after being in recess for 11 days. During the recess the House worked on the FY 2020 amended budget, the House passed the amended FY 2020 amended budget on Wednesday by a vote of 126-46. Now the FY 2020 budget goes over to the Senate for their consideration. The House will begin working on the FY 2021 budget. The legislature was in session on Tuesday through Friday of this last week for legislative days 13 through 16 of the 40 day session. Committee meetings picked up the pace, with a number of bills moving through committees.

### **Economic Development:**

[SB 403](#) sponsored by Senator Burt Jones (R-Jackson) allows for sports betting in the state and creates the Georgia Mobile Sports Wagering Integrity Commission to oversee it. The bill was introduced on Thursday.

### **Taxation:**

[HB 448](#) sponsored by Representative Matt Dollar (R-Marietta) known as the lodging facilitator bill was approved in the full Ways and Means Committee on Thursday. 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.

[HB 538](#) sponsored by Representative Todd Jones (R-South Forsyth) passed the House on Tuesday. 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:**

[SB 371](#) sponsored by Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega) creates a line item in the Georgia Department of Transportation budget to allocate funds, as needed, directly to freight rail. This bill identifies freight rail as a priority for Georgia and allows for direct state investment specifically in railways and railroads. This bill is the companion bill to [HB 820](#) sponsored by Chairman Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville). SB 371 passed the Senate Transportation Committee by substitute on Thursday.

[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 Senate Transportation Committee on Thursday.

*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.*