



## 2020 Legislative Update March 8, 2020

The General Assembly was in session Monday through Thursday of last week. They completed days 22-25 of the legislative session. Crossover day is scheduled for Thursday, March 12. Crossover day is the last day for a bill to pass the Chamber in which it originated in. Next week the legislature is scheduled to be in session Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for legislative days 26-28.

### **Business & Industry:**

[SB 316](#) sponsored by Senator Bruce Thompson (R-White) would provide reciprocity to military spouses who are licensed in other states to practice certain professions and occupations in Georgia. The bill was second read in the House and assigned to the House Governmental Affairs Committee.

[SB 415](#) sponsored by Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega) the bill addresses legal reform including premises liability, trucking lawsuits, seat belt admissibility, asbestos litigation, truth in medical damages, among others. SB 415 passed the full Senate Insurance and Labor Committee on Tuesday.

[SB 493](#) sponsored by Senator Bruce Thompson (R-White) encourages businesses to use the highest cyber security software which provides them affirmative defenses for data breaches. The bill passed out of the Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee on Thursday.

[HB 879](#) sponsored by Representative Brett Harrell (R-Snellville) allows for the home delivery of alcohol sales. The bill passed the House Regulated Industries Committee on Thursday and awaits action in the House Rules Committee.

### **Economic Development:**

[HB 1037](#) sponsored by Representative Matt Dollar (R-Marietta) updates the Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act. The bill was referred to the Income Tax Subcommittee of Ways and Means where it had a first hearing.

### **Taxation:**

[HB 105](#) sponsored by Representative Sam Watson (R-Moultrie), the hurricane Michael disaster relief bill was amended in the Senate to include provisions that reduce taxes on rideshare companies and direct such dollars collected to transportation related expenses. The bill passed in the Senate on Wednesday.

### **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. The bill was first read in the House and assigned to the House Transportation Committee.

[HB 820](#) sponsored by Chairman Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville) 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. The bill passed the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday.

*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.*