



2020 Legislative Update March 13, 2020

The General Assembly was in session Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. They completed days 26-29 of the legislative session. On crossover day, the Senate finished up around 7 pm and the House continued to pass bills after midnight.

Thursday, the Governor held a press conference to address the current Coronavirus pandemic. He urged the local and state agencies, school districts, and residents to take precautions to prevent further spread of the virus. By taking this action, he seeks to protect the elderly and disabled populations who are most vulnerable to the virus.

Lt. Governor Duncan and Speaker Ralston came together to create a plan of action to address the concerns of Coronavirus for the Legislative Session. The two decided that after today, Friday, March 13 (Legislative Day 29), that the session would be suspended until further notice.

Late on Friday, President Trump declared a national emergency and then Governor Kemp announced that he will be declaring a public health emergency for the State on Saturday morning. This declaration will help health and emergency officials by deploying available resources for mitigation and treatment of COVID-19. He's also calling for a special session of the General Assembly to convene at the State Capitol at 8 AM on Monday, March 16 to ratify the action through a joint resolution.

Budget

[HB 792](#) sponsored by Representative David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge) is the supplemental FY 2020 budget. The House and Senate both agreed to the Conference Committee report on Thursday and it awaits action by Governor Kemp.

[HB 793](#) sponsored by Representative David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge) is the general appropriations bill for the full FY 2021 budget. The House passed the budget on Tuesday and awaits action in the Senate.

Business & Industry:

[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 the Senate on Thursday.

[HB 879](#) sponsored by Representative Brett Harrell (R-Snellville) allows for the home delivery of alcohol sales. The bill passed the House on Tuesday.

Economic Development:

[HB 1073](#) sponsored by Representative Sam Watson (R-Moultrie) allows three to five contiguous counties to establish a joint regional development authority. It provides the opportunity for these development authorities to obtain grants for primary care medical facilities located within their regional jurisdiction. HB 1073 passed the House on Thursday.

[HB 1037](#) sponsored by Representative Matt Dollar (R-Marietta) updates the Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act. The bill passed the House on Thursday.

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 House agreed to the Senate substitute as amended on Thursday. The bill now goes back to the Senate for an agree or disagree.

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.