



2019 Legislative Update **Sine Die**

The Georgia General Assembly adjourned Sine Die at midnight on Tuesday, March 2 after completing the 40 day legislative session. A number of bills passed in the final hours, yet a number of important issues did not make the deadline.

[SB 2](#), by Senator Steve Gooch, allows Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) to provide and operate broadband facilities or form and operate a broadband affiliate, received final passage in the House with a vote of 160-0.

[SB 66](#), by Senator Steve Gooch the 'Streamlining Wireless Facilities and Antennas Act', streamlines the deployment of small cells in public rights-of-way by placing caps on fees and deadlines for application processing. This bill will allow for 5G technology. The bill received final passage in the House with a vote of 159-3.

[SB 106](#), by Senator Blake Tillery, authorizes the Department of Community Health (DCH) to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by June 30, 2020. This may include an increase in the income threshold of up to a maximum of 100 percent of the federal poverty level. Upon approval of this waiver, the bill also authorizes DCH to implement the terms and conditions without any further legislative action. Additionally, it authorizes the governor to submit a Section 1332 innovation waiver proposal to the to the United States Secretaries of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Treasury by December 31, 2021. The bill passed and was signed by the Governor.

[SB 108](#), by Senator P.K. Martin requires computer science classes for every middle and high school by 2030, received final passage in the Senate by a vote of 52-0.

[SB 200](#), by Senator Steve Gooch was amended to include a number of important issues, [HB 511](#) - addressing rural transit and governance, [HB 447](#) – jet fuel tax exemption, and [SB 131](#) – airport oversight committee. The bill was sent to a conference committee and did not receive final passage.

[SR 367](#), by Senator Brandon Beach creates a Senate study committee on casino gaming and horse racing received final passage in the Senate.

[HB 239](#), by Representative Chuck Efstrotation, provides the legislative framework for the Georgia Statewide Business Court as approved by the constitutional referendum in 2018. It received final passage in the House by a vote of 120-40.

[HB 324](#), by Representative Micah Gravley allows for the production, manufacturing and dispensing of low THC oil with a lawful valid license, received final passage by the House and Senate through a conference committee report.

[HB 509](#) by Representative John Carson extends the date for creating the Cobb county special district for transit. The bill did not pass.

[HR 37](#), by Representative Kevin Tanner creates the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics to study and assess the needs for and means of providing for a system of freight and logistics investment projects and priorities in the state, received final passage in the Senate by a vote of 51-1.

Last week, Governor Kemp signed 21 House Bills including [HB 316](#) which allows the State to purchase new voting machines. The Governor now has forty days to review bills and sign, veto, or take no action on the measure, allowing it to become law. The last day for the Governor to sign or veto a bill is May 12, 2019.

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.