



**AIA**  
Georgia



## **2017 Legislative Session Report Week 3**

As the Georgia Legislature continues to check off Legislative Days – we are already through Day 12 – we will continue to keep you apprised of what is going on in Washington as well. At this time in history, decisions at the Federal level will have a huge impact on policy and politics in Georgia. In the continued saga of the confirmation hearings – early this week, after democrats boycotted the Senate Finance Committee to obstruct a vote on nominations, Republicans on the committee voted to change the rules and move forward with a recommendation of the nominations of Tom Price as Health and Human Services secretary to the full Senate. Committee rules previously required at least one member from each party to be present for a meeting but the rule change removes this requirement for confirmation hearings. Price’s nomination advanced 14-0. You can read more about the event [here](#). Transportation Secretary nominee, Elaine Chao, was confirmed this week with a unanimous vote in the Senate. Chao received overwhelming support as many have noted there is not a more qualified nominee.

In Georgia, the adjournment calendar for the remainder of the legislative session was voted on this week. One change of note is that the critical “Crossover Day” will be on Day 28 as opposed to Day 30 as it has been in years past. Day 28 will be March 3<sup>rd</sup> – exactly one month from today! This is the last day that bills must pass one chamber to be introduced to the opposite chamber to remain alive for the 2017 session. Bills that do not crossover will still be in play in 2018 as this is the first year of the biennial. Sine Die, the final day of the legislative session, will be March 30<sup>th</sup>. See the rest of the calendar [here](#).

Senator Josh McKoon (R – Columbus) announced this week that he will not be seeking re-election to the State Senate in 2018. Rumors are circulating that he may seek a statewide office but he made no remarks about his future political aspirations. We can now add the District 29 seat to the mix of seats up for grabs in Georgia. This will certainly cause some political dominos to fall.

Governor Deal has declared today “Falcons Friday” in Georgia. We join him in wishing our Atlanta Falcons good luck in the Superbowl on Sunday. The Georgia Legislature will be taking Monday off to celebrate a victory!

---

## **Legislative Issues of Interest**

[HB 41](#): Sponsored by Rep. Brett Harrell, this bill has been assigned to the Regulations Subcommittee of the House Regulated Industries Committee. The bill relates to the qualifications of applicants for examination or certificate of registration as an architect, and changes the timing of ability to sit for examinations. The bill received a hearing in subcommittee on Monday. AIA, SCAD, Kennesaw State and Georgia Tech were all on hand to express support. Representative Welch, the Chairman of the subcommittee, indicated he wanted to be deliberate about this important piece of legislation and wanted to give the subcommittee more time to consider it. There will be an amendment to the language assuring all current licensure requirements remain in tact. We expect the bill to be back before the subcommittee next week.

[HB 55](#): This bill puts term limits in place for individuals serving on state licensing boards, including that for architects. The term limit would be 8 years. AIA has asked for feedback from current and past architect members of our licensing board.

[HB 59](#): Sponsored by Rep. Ron Stephens, this bill is titled the “Rehabilitation of Historic Structures” bill. The bill had a hearing this week in House Ways and Means this week. This bill creates a measureable financial incentive to save some of our historic structures in Georgia and create extra revenue to the state. We have indicated strong support for this bill and expect it to pass out of this committee at the next hearing. You can also find the final report from the Historic Site Preservation Study Committee [here](#).

[SB 2](#): Sponsored by Sen. Mike Dugan, also known as “The FAST Act,” the purpose of this bill is to alleviate innumerable hurdles to permitting hurting small businesses. This gives businesses an assurance of a timeline. Sen. Dugan has asked for feedback from us on this bill. The Lt. Governor has made the rounds with interested parties, including AIA, to garner support for this bill and we expect to start hearings for this issue next week. We have gathered feedback from many of you – thank you for your attention to this matter! We are working with other interested parties (ACEC and AGC) to organize the feedback and present to the author.

We are still anticipating bills in the next week or two on rules on the use of notaries, stream buffer regulations, the use of imminent domain, and the extension of the statute of liability limitations for latent defects in buildings.

Below you can find a tracking spreadsheet with all the bills we are currently watching.

---

## **Other Information**

As everything moves in fast motion at the State Capitol this time of year, AIA's Advocacy Day at is quickly approaching on February 28<sup>th</sup>. We have lined up a fantastic list of speakers.

Rep. Meagan Hanson

Rep. Brett Harrell

Ryan Taylor, AIA

John Hudgison, Associate AIA

Mark Woodall, Associated General Contractors

We are looking forward to hosting all of you. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding your visit. We will be sending out additional information in the coming weeks to make your trip to the Capitol as seamless as possible.

We will continue to update you on legislative activity throughout the Session. Please contact your Peachtree Government Relations team if you have any questions or concerns. (Contact information below)

Don Bolia

[Don.Bolia@peachgr.com](mailto:Don.Bolia@peachgr.com)

404-314-4484

Laura Norton

[Laura.Norton@peachgr.com](mailto:Laura.Norton@peachgr.com)

678-699-6426

Jennifer Winkler

[Jennifer@peachgr.com](mailto:Jennifer@peachgr.com)

504-237-3498

Thank you!

Bill No	Title	Status	Sponsor	HouseCom
HB 0041	Architects; allow certain students to take examination; change qualifications	House - House Second Readers	Brett Harrell	Regulated Industries
HB 0055	Professions and businesses; number of consecutive years an individual may serve as a member of a licensing board; limit	House - House Second Readers	Ricky Williams	Regulated Industries
HB 0059	Revenue and taxation; tax credits for rehabilitation of historic structures; revise procedures, conditions, and limitations	House - House Second Readers	Ron Stephens	Ways and Means
HB 0182	Fair Chance at Employment Act; enact	House - House Second Readers	Winfred Dukes	Industry and Labor
HB 0215	Sales and use tax; mass transportation; counties and municipalities issue general obligation bonds; clarify	House - House First Readers	Meagan Hanson	Ways and Means
SB 0002	"The FAST Act - Fairness, Accountability, Simplification, and Transparency - Empowering Our Small Businesses to Succeed"	Senate - Senate Read and Referred	Michael Dugan	Economic Development and Tourism
SB 0075	Administrative Services Department; create the Division of Supplier Diversity	Senate - Senate Read and Referred	Vincent Fort	Government Oversight