



AIA
Georgia

PGR | PEACHTREE
GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS

Jan. 8 - Jan. 11, 2018

Week 1

WEEKLY REPORT

Not the threat of winter weather nor the collegiate national championship game could stop the 2018 Georgia General Assembly from meeting its constitutional mandate to open on Monday, Jan. 8, 2018. The House and Senate gaveled in at 10:00 AM.

As expected, the first day of the Legislative Session was short. The Senate officially elected Butch Miller as President Pro Tem replacing David Shafer. The House also elected their leadership where there were no changes. Ultimately, everyone realized that no one's head was in the Capitol and rather everyone was already thinking about the Georgia Bulldogs! Both Chambers adjourned within an hour.

Following the heartbreaking loss for all Georgia Bulldogs under the Dome, the Legislative Session picked up the pace.

2018 ELECTIONS

Following the December resignation of Senator Rick Jeffares, there was a seat to fill in the Senate. Representative Brian Strickland decided to run for the Senate seat so a House seat also became open. On Tuesday, January 9th, Brian Strickland won a 4 way race with 61% of the vote to become the next Senator from the 17th District. Geoffrey Cauble won a four-way race with 51% of the vote to be the Representative from the 111th.

Here is the breakdown:

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| PHYLLIS HATCHER (DEM) | 34.36% | 2,772 |
| NELVA LEE (REP) | 1.19% | 96 |
| BRIAN STRICKLAND (REP) | 61.99% | 5,001 |
| ED TONEY (REP) | 2.45% | 198 |

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|--------------------------|--------|-------|
| GEOFFREY CAUBLE (REP) | 51.04% | 1,864 |
| TARJI LEONARD DUNN (DEM) | 12.35% | 451 |
| EL-MAHDI HOLLY (DEM) | 30.72% | 1,122 |
| LARRY K. MOREY (REP) | 5.89% | 215 |

Eggs and Issues

The Georgia Chamber held its annual Eggs and Issues breakfast on Wednesday. Over 2000 legislators, local chamber members from across the state, lobbyists and business leaders gathered to hear the legislative priorities of the Georgia Chamber, the Governor, Lt. Governor and the Speaker.

Governor Deal's speech focused on the strong economic state of Georgia. He specifically mentioned the possibility of landing the Amazon headquarters in Georgia. Governor Deal indicated he would call a rare special session to drive Amazon-specific legislation if needed.

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle focused his comments on education and career preparation. This has been a cornerstone of his agenda over his tenure as Lt. Governor. He expressed the need for more industry certification and dual enrollment programs. The Lt. Governor looked to College and Career Academies as a driving force in attracting venture capital to Georgia. Other initiatives include rural broadband and healthcare reform that will increase access and decrease cost.

House Speaker Ralston's comment focused on transportation. He spoke about the importance of investing in Georgia Ports and rail connectivity. The Speaker mentioned MARTA ridership was twenty times higher on Monday during the UGA Championship game. Speaker Ralston closed by referencing much-needed legislation to modernize Georgia's child adoption laws. He threw the blame to the Senate in that this legislation did not pass last year.

State of the State

On Thursday, as is tradition, the Governor delivered his final State of the State address. The Governor was clearly very emotional about vacating the office he has held for 8 years. Governor Deal spoke of an "exceptional" Georgia and combed through his political and legislative victories over his time in office. These victories centered around Georgia's healthy economic environment. In laying out his agenda, he indicated criminal justice reform, increasing infrastructure spending to further deepen the Savannah ports. The Governor urged legislators to support his \$26 billion budget proposal. Find the full speech here: <http://bit.ly/2Fu37u6>

Schedule

We have predicted a fast session this year on account of the May primary election. Following a slow start, it seems legislators will pick up the pace. The House and Senate took until Day 3 to agree on an adjournment resolution and ultimately released the following through Day 11:

Monday, January 8 – Legislative Day 1
Tuesday, January 9 – Legislative Day 2
Wednesday, January 10 – Legislative Day 3
Thursday, January 11 – Legislative Day 4
(January 16-18: Joint appropriations hearings)
Thursday, January 18 – Legislative Day 5
Friday, January 19 – Legislative Day 6
Monday, January 22 – Legislative Day 7
Tuesday, January 23 – Legislative Day 8
Wednesday, January 24 – Legislative Day 9
Thursday, January 25 – Legislative Day 10
Monday, January 29 – Legislative Day 11

Budget

Governor Deal released his budget recommendations this week. The plan calls for \$26 billion in state spending with \$50 billion in matching federal funds.

You can find the full document here: <http://bit.ly/2FuGzcl>

Joint budget hearings are scheduled for next week. PGR will be at all relevant hearings. You can find the full schedule here: <http://bit.ly/2mxAmog>

Here are some of the highlights:

- \$361.7 million for the Teachers Retirement System.
- \$127.6 million for K-12 enrollment growth, training and experience.
- \$30 million to assist low-wealth school systems.
- \$54.3 million for resident instruction at University System institutions.
- \$5.9 million for operations for the Georgia Cyber Innovation and Training Center.
- \$34.4 million for growth in the Dual Enrollment program.
- \$255.9 million for Medicaid to fund growth and offset the loss of federal and other funds.

- \$28.8 million for child welfare services to fund out-of-home care growth and foster care per diem increases.
 - \$5.9 million for autism crisis services for children under 21.
 - \$22.9 million to implement recommendations from the Commission on Children’s Mental Health.
 - \$5 million for accountability courts to implement new courts and expand existing courts.
 - \$31.7 million in new motor fuel funds for transportation (HB 170)
 - \$100 million in bond funds to repair and replace bridges throughout the state.
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Adoption Legislation

The first bill that will get significant attention is House Bill 159, which began as a routine update to Georgia’s adoption code sponsored by Representative Bert Reeves. The bill is designed to update and streamline Georgia’s adoption laws, with a goal to reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care.

Last year, a last-minute Senate amendment to include language that was viewed as discriminatory to LGBT families caused the bill to stall without resolution. We expect the House will send the original version of HB 159 to the Senate early in the Session. The Senate’s response may indicate the tone of the Session.

AIA – specific Issues and Legislation of Interest

There were few bills dropped this week, but there are many carry-overs from last year as well as some anticipated legislation. We will begin to highlight issues we are following closely and you can always find a full list of bills we are watching at the bottom of this report.

Of note is that, with Rick Jeffares resignation, there is a new Regulated Industries Chairman in the Senate. Senator Frank Ginn is our new Chair. We do a lot of work in the Regulated Industries Committee and are looking forward to working with Chairman Ginn.

Next week we expect legislation to drop at a more rapid pace.

The final report on the State and Local Construction Management Study Committee was released this week. We have attached a copy.

Transportation Chairmen Kevin Tanner and Brandon Beach each have a transit bill they will be dropping.

We have been working with the land surveyors on a bill they will be putting forth this year. The bill deals with the use of drones making it so if you use drones on a project that requires surveying that you use a licensed surveyor. We have worked with them on a carve-out to ensure that contractors can use drones on their own projects for their own purposes with the understanding that the data cannot be “sold” to another entity. We will continue working with the surveyors on this language so it is crystal clear. This bill is likely to drop next week.

We also anticipate a series of bills addressing recommendations from the Rural Development Council.

We expect to see a version of SB 2 – the permitting streamlining bill from last year. This will likely be in the form of a new bill.

We will keep you updated as legislation is dropped or moved that will affect AIA.

Days of Note

We are looking forward to hosting AIA members at the Capitol for our annual Day at the Capitol. This year this day will be February 1 from 11:00 – 4:00. We will be hearing from a dynamic series of speakers regarding different issues and pieces of legislation affecting architects and the environment we work. This is always an informative day and gives AIA members a chance to meet their personal legislators and begin to establish important relationships. We hope you will make plans to be there!

Contact Us

Please contact your lobbying team if you have any questions or concerns.

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| ▶ HB 0041 | - Watch | - 7/1/2017 | - Architects; allow certain students to take examination; change qualifications |
| ▶ HB 0055 | - Watch | - 1/23/2017 | - Professions and businesses; number of consecutive years an individual may serve as a member of a licensing board; limit |
| ▶ HB 0059 | - Watch | - 1/8/2018 | - Revenue and taxation; tax credits for rehabilitation of historic structures; revise procedures, conditions, and limitations |
| ▶ HB 0120 | - Watch | - 1/26/2017 | - Revised Georgia Law on Notarial Acts of 2018; enact |
| ▶ HB 0182 | - Watch | - 2/1/2017 | - Fair Chance at Employment Act; enact |
| ▶ HB 0215 | - Watch | - 2/7/2017 | - Sales and use tax; mass transportation; counties and municipalities issue general obligation bonds; clarify |
| ▶ HB 0239 | - Watch | - 2/23/2017 | - Low-voltage Contractors, Division of; require continuing education; authorize |
| ▶ HB 0271 | - Watch | - 3/3/2017 | - Water resources; shore protection; revise various provisions |
| ▶ HB 0304 | - Watch | - 2/14/2017 | - Open Records Act; enact |
| ▶ HR 0284 | - Watch | - 3/30/2017 | - House Study Committee on State and Local Construction Management; create |
| ▶ HR 0362 | - Watch | - 1/8/2018 | - Joint Study Committee on Stream Buffers in Georgia; create |
| ▶ SB 0002 | - Watch | - 3/30/2017 | - "The FAST Act - Fairness, Accountability, Simplification, and Transparency - Empowering Our Small Businesses to Succeed" |
| ▶ SB 0026 | - Watch | - 1/23/2017 | - Local Government; certain contracts and purchases by local boards of education; impose requirements |
| ▶ SB 0075 | - Watch | - 1/30/2017 | - Administrative Services Department; create the Division of Supplier Diversity |
| ▶ SB 0177 | - Watch | - 2/15/2017 | - "Georgia Constitutional Carry Act of 2017" |
| ▶ SB 0233 | - Watch | - 2/22/2017 | - State Government; preservation of religious freedom; provide |
| ▶ SR 0152 | - Watch | - 3/16/2017 | - Joint Study Committee on Stream Buffers in Georgia; create |
| ▶ SR 0180 | - Watch | - 2/8/2017 | - Georgia Building Authority; preserve the historic integrity and sound environmental stewardship of Pratt-Pullman Yard; recommend |
| ▶ SR 0249 | - Watch | - 2/21/2017 | - General Assembly; law for the local authorization of a limited number of licensed destination resort facilities casino resorts within the state; authorize -CA |