



**AIA**  
Georgia

**PGR** | PEACHTREE  
GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS

Jan. 22 - Jan. 25, 2018

Week 3

## **WEEKLY REPORT**

This week it seemed the legislature finally got rolling. Committees began to delve into issues setting the stage for their activity to intensify in the weeks ahead.

The Senate took up its first Rules calendar on Thursday and passed SB 327 dealing with exemptions to medical examiner reports. The House plans to take up its first calendar on Monday. We also expect the budget to emerge from the Appropriations committee next week.

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## **HANDS FREE AND DRIVERLESS**

Legislators and advocates have taken to the state capitol to push for legislation enacting a hands-free driving law. Representative John Carson held a study committee on this issue in the 2017 interim and he recently dropped HB 673 combating distracted driving.

With the goal being hands free, there may be a new solution on the horizon that doesn't require legislation! This week, we learned that Waymo, the driverless car division owned by Google will be bringing its test program to Atlanta. The company is testing autonomous vehicles in 24 cities - Atlanta being one of them. If you see white Chrysler Pacifica vans on the road without drivers you are seeing a Waymo vehicle. We will be following the progress of Representative Carson's efforts as well as the emergence of these autonomous vehicles on our roads.



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# Opioid Legislation

As expected, Senator Renee Unterman dropped an omnibus bill as a proposal to deal with the opioid crisis. We have been anticipating this bill as a result of the task force that completed work over the summer and fall of 2017. This is likely to be a prominent bill this year as the opioid crisis spans the state.

The bill, SB 352, has three parts:

It prohibits “patient brokering.” This is the practice of preying on addicts recruiting them to healthcare facilities for a fee, kickback, etc. where, at these facilities, they are not receiving the appropriate treatment. The proposal outlines penalties for violations including fines and imprisonment.

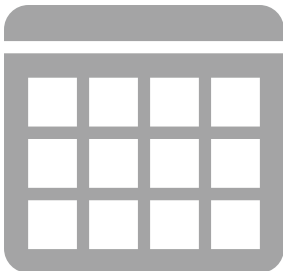
It also creates a director of Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Related Disorders. This director would serve at the pleasure at the Governor and would lead a newly established Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery.

Lastly, the proposal would create a prohibition against billing a patient or insurer for excessive, high-tech or fraudulent drug testing in the treatment of the elderly, the disabled, or any individual affected by pain, substance abuse, addiction or any related disorder. Again, the bill outlines penalties including fines and imprisonment.

Senator Unterman is planning to hold a press conference on Monday, January 29th about this legislation.

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## Schedule



Developing a schedule has been at the top of the minds of everyone at the Capitol. Late on Thursday, both Chambers passed an adjournment resolution taking us through the end of the session. The aggressive schedule indicates the Legislature is planning to put their foot on the gas. Sine Die is scheduled for March 29th.

Monday, January 29 – Legislative Day 11  
Tuesday, January 30 – Legislative Day 12  
Wednesday, January 31 – Legislative Day 13  
Thursday, February 1 – Legislative Day 14  
Monday, February 5 – Legislative Day 15  
Tuesday, February 6 – Legislative Day 16  
Wednesday, February 7 – Legislative Day 17  
Thursday, February 8 – Legislative Day 18  
Monday, February 12 – Legislative Day 19  
Tuesday, February 13 – Legislative Day 20  
Wednesday, February 14 – Legislative Day 21  
Thursday, February 15 – Legislative Day 22  
Tuesday, February 20 – Legislative Day 23  
Wednesday, February 21 – Legislative Day 24  
Thursday, February 22 – Legislative Day 25  
Friday, February 23 – Legislative Day 26  
Monday, February 26 – Legislative Day 27  
Wednesday, February 28 – Legislative Day 28 – CROSSOVER DAY  
Thursday, March 1 – Legislative Day 29  
Monday, March 5 – Legislative Day 30  
Wednesday, March 7 – Legislative Day 31  
Friday, March 9 – Legislative Day 32  
Monday, March 12 – Legislative Day 33  
Wednesday, March 14 – Legislative Day 34  
Thursday, March 15 – Legislative Day 35  
Monday, March 19 – Legislative Day 36  
Wednesday, March 21 – Legislative Day 37  
Friday, March 23 – Legislative Day 38  
Tuesday, March 27 – Legislative Day 39  
Thursday, March 29 – Legislative Day 40 – SINE DIE

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# AIA – Specific Issues and Legislation of Interest

Below are the bills we are watching closely. You can also find an attached spreadsheet with a comprehensive list of bills we are following.

Transportation Chairmen Kevin Tanner and Brandon Beach each have a transit bill they will be dropping. They have both been meeting with interest groups and leaders to ensure comprehensive and balanced bills.

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 are meeting with GMA early next week to discuss their thoughts on this bill.

**SB 319:** By Senator John Albers. The legislation provides for the creation of the Department of Fire Safety and transfers the State Fire Marshall’s Office, the Firefighter’s Standards and Training Council and all other activities related to fire service to the newly created department. The bill is now in the Senate Public Safety Committee. You can find the bill here: <http://bit.ly/2Fiwq1C>

**SB 328:** By Senator John Albers. This bill sunsets three tax credits. 1. Relating to transit benefits. 2. Relating to private driver education courses. 3. Relating to diesel particulate emission reduction technology. This bill passed the Senate Finance Committee and is currently in the Rules Committee. You can find the bill here: <http://bit.ly/2Ef2AvC>

**HB 653:** This bill is by Representative Jason Spencer. The bill makes it so that professional licensing boards are authorized but not required to suspend the license of a person upon the default of a federal education loan. This bill is in the Regulated Industries Committee.

**HB 741:** By Representative John Corbett. This bill amends the definition of “fair market value” for ad valorem tax purposes. Currently, the income approach is required to be used if data is available and the bill will change this standard to merely being “considered” rather than required. Also, under the current law, if the owner voluntarily supplies actual income and expense data, it is required to be considered. The bill will change the standard to the data merely being one component of the fair market value determination. This bill is currently in the House Ways and Means Committee. You can find this bill here: <http://bit.ly/2DRmJdw>

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

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# Day at the Capitol

We are looking forward to hosting AIA members at the Capitol on February 1st. We have a great line-up of Speakers planning to address our group including Transportation Chairmen Brandon Beach and Kevin Tanner, Representatives Meagan Hanson and Brett Harrell, Senator John Albers and City of Atlanta Director of Resiliency Stephanie Benefield. We hope you will plan to join us on February 1st at 11 AM.

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## Contact Us

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

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