



AIA
Georgia

PGR | PEACHTREE
GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS

Feb. 5 - Feb. 8, 2018

Week 5

WEEKLY REPORT

Last week, the General Assembly adjourned under a cloud of uncertainty surrounding the adoption bill, HB 159. The Senate left without coming to agreement on the compromise version of the bill. This week, legislators returned to the Gold Dome with a new spirit

of cooperation. In the first action of the day, the Senate voted 53-2 to approve the compromise proposition. The bill moves on to the Governor's desk. This action has opened up a backlog. Committees began to hear bills and bills were finally brought to the floor. The Legislature completed through Day 18 this week. We are closing in on the half-way point!

IN WASHINGTON, GOVERNMENT REOPENS

After a 5 hour shut down on Thursday night, President Trump signed a massive budget deal into law on Friday morning. The colossal bill, clears the deck for Congress in dealing with major spending issues. It allows for disaster relief money and hikes the debt ceiling set to be reached next month. The exact spending line items will be decided by the Appropriations Committees but included in the funding is \$10 billion in infrastructure investment, \$2.9 billion for child care and \$3 billion to combat opioid and substance abuse.

The House of Representatives voted 240-186 to pass the bill. 73 Democrats voted for the bill while 67 House Republicans did not.

This bill will keep the Government open until late March. You can view the budget deal, here: <http://cnn.it/2BjIhxQ>

Opioid Legislation

Senator Renee Unterman's opioid bill is on the way to the House. The bill was heard in the Senate on Wednesday, February 7th. It passed with a vote of 53-0.

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 of 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.

Transit

Senator Brandon Beach has dropped SB 324, the first of two expected transit bills.

The bill does two main things:

- Creates the Atlanta-Region Transit Link (ATL) Commission. The purpose of this Commission would be to coordinate the funding and construction of transit facilities in the metro-Atlanta area.
- Creates an optional T-SPLOST that counties which are part of the system may adopt through a referendum. The money would be used to fund public transit expansion within the local jurisdiction. The jurisdictions are encouraged to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with MARTA for their transportation services.

The bill was heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on Wednesday and passed unanimously. You can find the bill here: <http://bit.ly/2EwIAr5>

Schedule

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

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.

SB 2: By Senator Mike Dugan. This bill mandates that cities and counties which charge license or permit fees establish a schedule of such fees and requirements which must also include time lines necessary for processing completed applications. They are also required to provide a list of all documentation needed by applicants to meet these requirements. There exist financial penalties for the local government if these time lines are not met. The bill requires local governments to set up a second, expedited process and also to look into sharing applicant information with other municipalities to relieve applicants of duplicate filings. This bill was moving in 2017 and got caught up in a political battle at the end of the 2017 legislative session. This year, the bill does not appear to have momentum. We have met with GMA in regards to this bill and they believe this issue does not need to be solved through legislation. They have produced a pamphlet of best practice guidelines that they will be distributing to their members. You can find this bill here: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20172018/169751.pdf>

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. The bill was heard on 1/22 and no vote was taken. DOI Commissioner, Ralph Hudgens, testified against the bill. You can find the bill here: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20172018/170935.pdf>

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.

During the summer, AIA worked with Senator Albers' study committee to develop a tool for the state to evaluate and determine the return on investment for the multitude of tax credits, incentives and subsidies in Georgia. The Historic Building Tax Credit received a passing grade from the evaluation tool that was developed. This bill identifies and seeks to sunset three tax credits that did not perform well with the tool. Note that two are programs intended to improve air quality in Georgia's cities.

This bill passed the Senate and will be read into the House on Monday. You can find the bill here: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20172018/171102.pdf>

SB 378: By Senator John Albers. This bill is entitled the "Georgia Measuring Success Act." The bill outlines the process for a new tax credit in Georgia. It requires an economic analysis prior to introduction or amendment of legislation containing tax incentives. SB 378 is a direct result of the study committee Senator Albers held over the summer having to do with measuring the impact of tax incentives.

As mentioned previously, AIA worked with Senator Albers study committee to develop a tool for the state to evaluate and determine the return on investment for the multitude of tax credits, incentives, and subsidies. The Historic Building Tax Credit, of great interest to architects, received a passing grade from the evaluation tool that was developed. This bill intended to adopt this evaluation tool into law, and apply it to any new tax incentives, subsidies, and credits.

This was heard in the Senate Finance Committee this week and was recommended “do pass.” It is now in the Senate Rules Committee. You can find the legislation here: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/SB/378>

SB 404: By Senator Matt Brass. This bill states that no county, municipality, or other public water systems shall charge or assess a separate fee for standby water service for fire or sprinkler connections. AIA members have expressed concern that this may have an impact on fire sprinklers and safety in buildings. The bill is currently in the hopper and will be assigned to a committee next week. We will await action but expect movement as the bill has a strong list of co-signers including the Rules Chairman and Majority Whip.

HB 189: By Representative Sheila Nelson. This was a 2017 bill titled the “Contract Cancellation Act.” The bill would require any service contract with a state agency or local government to contain specific performance and cost parameters. The service provider would be required to submit quarterly reports to the governing authority showing compliance. It also allows contracts to contain a provision allowing governing authorities to unilaterally terminate the contract if the contractor fails to comply with the performance criteria. We believe this can be done and is being done within contracts and legislation is not necessary. In 2017, the bill was placed into the Senate SLOGO Committee after passing the House on Crossover Day. With a new Chair in the Senate Committee, there is some uncertainty as to whether the bill will get a hearing. We are working with other stakeholders to identify the origin of the bill. There are a number of organizations opposed to the bill willing to work with the author to find a solution to the problem.

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

Election 2018 - Financial Disclosures

Even with the Legislative Session in full swing, campaigning is not slowing down. Candidates are still traveling the state and those that are not participating in the Session are still busy raising money. On February 7th, candidates were required to file their financial disclosures. The chart below shows how the money race is shaping up:

| Title | Candidate | Party | Amount raised last quarter | Cash on hand |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Governor | Casey Cagle | R | \$4,053,190.00 | \$5,732,378.36 |
| Governor | Brian Kemp | R | \$1,137,283.30 | \$2,123,589.54 |
| Governor | Hunter Hill | R | \$1,148,414.99 | \$928,444.92 |
| Governor | Clay Tippins | R | \$1,683,493.00 | \$1,726,088.93 |
| Governor | Michael Williams | R | \$51,404.00 | \$944,024.47 |
| Governor | Stacey Evans | D | \$815,252.50 | \$1,570,376.61 |
| Governor | Stacey Abrams | D | \$1,391,032.46 | \$461,365.97 |
| Lt. Governor | David Shafer | R | \$650,175.02 | \$1,484,555.88 |
| Lt. Governor | Rick Jeffares | R | \$345,758.00 | \$421,933.87 |
| Lt. Governor | Geoff Duncan | R | \$138,050.00 | \$516,228.61 |
| Sec. of State | David Belle Isle | R | \$55,175.00 | \$148,331.45 |
| Sec. of State | Buzz Brockway | R | \$59,758.00 | \$57,776.31 |
| Sec. of State | Josh McKoon | R | \$192,658.10 | \$150,934.84 |
| Sec. of State | Brad Raffensperger | R | \$49,650.00 | \$77,224.34 |
| Sec. of State | John Barrow | D | \$340,157.57 | \$236,863.89 |
| Commissioner of Insurance | Jay Florence | R | \$430,328.00 | \$658,353.70 |
| Commissioner of Insurance | Jim Beck | R | \$408,280.00 | \$1,028,856.16 |
| Commissioner of Insurance | Tracey Jordan | R | \$16,165.00 | \$11,525.97 |
| Commissioner of Insurance | Cynthia Zeldin | D | \$195,367.18 | \$126,088.29 |

Contact Us

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