



**AIA**  
Georgia

**PGR** | PEACHTREE  
GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS

**Feb. 4 - Feb. 8, 2019**

**Week 4**

## **WEEKLY REPORT**

The ceremonial nature of January is over. The Superbowl is over. Legislators returned to the Capitol on Tuesday ready to get to work! The halls were busy with legislators, lobbyists and the myriad of school and advocacy groups visiting the Capitol. Committee meetings began to take shape this week. Legislation was introduced and some bills were acted upon. As the pace of the legislative session picks up we will continue to update and alert you as legislation drops that will affect you.

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## **STATE OF THE UNION**

While we devote our attention to state politics and state policymaking, the Federal government plays a huge role in our abilities to do our job and live our lives. President Trump delivered his State of the Union address on Tuesday night. The event was surrounded in controversy. The speech comes at a particularly tense time in Washington DC in that we are working our way back from the longest shutdown in our nation's history. The House Chamber was obviously quite divided upon party affiliation. Democrat women wore white to represent women's suffrage, applauding when the President noted that more women were working than ever before in history. Some thought the President delivered a strong speech omitting some of his often-divisive political punches. Some thought his speech was weak and did not accurately depict the state of the union. Either way, you believe, the State of the Union is an enviable tradition for the citizens of the United States.

You can read the President's speech in its entirety [HERE](#)

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# NEW LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

**HB 30** – (Speaker David Ralston) The AFY19 Budget. The House has approved their version of the Amended FY19 budget. The bill is now being sent to the Senate for consideration. Notable changes to the budget from Governor Kemp’s proposal:

Department of Community Health-

- \$500,000 increase for Augusta University for recruitment to advance research in women’s and childhood cancer
- \$180,000 reduction to the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce. Reduces funds for contracts based on actual slots started.

Education-

- \$600,000 increase to Kemp’s proposed security grants
- \$38,900 increase to Agricultural Education for local law enforcement security at youth camps when students are present
- \$3.5M reduction to AV Technology and Film Grants eliminating additional grants for rural schools systems
- \$1M increase to state schools for generators to insure the safety of residential students during inclement weather

Public Health –

- \$350,000 increase to Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion for an Alzheimer’s disease awareness campaign
- \$367,000 decrease to Departmental Administration to reflect an adjustment to premiums for DOAS administered self insurance programs

You can find the budget tracking sheet [HERE](#)

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## LEGISLATION WE ARE FOLLOWING

**SB 15** – (Senator John Albers) “Keeping Georgia’s Schools Safe Act.” This bill adds additional requirements to the existing public school threat assessment requirements to the existing requirements and imposes the collective list on private schools as well.

The additions include:

- Preparation for security issues involving school functions held outside of normal school hours
- Addressing issues involving transportation to and from school functions when the transportation is furnished by the school or school system
- Requiring annual drills for responses to fire, weather, acts of violence, and acts of terrorism

The bill also creates a task force charged with sharing and providing homeland security activity on school data as well as allows this task force to create individual profiles on students for the purpose of analyzing threats.

referred to Public Safety Committee – Will be heard Wednesday, February 5th

**SR 12** – (Senator John Albers) Proposes an amendment to the Georgia Constitution to allow sales tax for educational purposes to be used for a school safety project.

referred to the Finance Committee and sent to subcommittee

**HB 42** – (Scot Turner) This bill prohibits professional licensing boards from refusing to issue a license or revoking the license of a person who is in default under an educational loan issued through the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation or through a federal program. The bill was heard in committee this week and there were concerns over how the debt would be taken care of without the option of revoking the license. Some legislators expressed that there is not a need for this change considering the number of affected individuals. The author agreed to address concerns and come back next week for a vote.

referred to Higher Education Committee – heard this week. Hearing only.

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## UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF INTEREST

There are not any committee meetings scheduled for next week at this time.

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## AIA DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Thank you to those of you who attended AIA's 2019 Day at the Capitol! We had over 50 people – the largest turnout ever! We were lucky to hear from a number of elected officials including Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, Senator Kay Kirkpatrick and Senator John Albers. A relationship with your elected official is the number one most effective advocacy tool. We look forward to building on these relationships and becoming trusted advisors to the legislators.

# CALENDAR

The legislature has set the schedule through the sine die. Sine die will be on April 2nd this year. The schedule is as follows:

Monday February 11 - Day 12

Tuesday February 12 - Day 13

Wednesday February 13 - Day 14

Thursday February 14 - Day 15

Friday February 15 - Day 16

Tuesday February 19 - Day 17

Wednesday February 20 - Day 18

Thursday February 21 - Day 19

Friday February 22 - Day 20

Monday February 25 - Day 21

Tuesday February 26 - Day 22

Wednesday February 27 - Day 23

Thursday February 28 - Day 24

Friday, March 1 - Day 25

Monday, March 4 - Day 26

Tuesday, March 5 - Day 27

Thursday, March 7 - Day 28 (Crossover Day!)

Friday, March 8 - Day 29

Monday, March 11 - Day 30

Tuesday, March 12 - Committee Day

Wednesday, March 13 - Day 31

Thursday, March 14 - Day 32

Monday, March 18 - Day 33

Tuesday, March 19 - Committee Day

Wednesday, March 20 - Committee Day

Thursday, March 21 - Day 34

Friday, March 22 - Day 35

Monday, March 25 – Day 36  
Tuesday, March 26 – Day 37  
Wednesday, March 27 – Committee Day  
Thursday, March 28 – Day 38  
Friday, March 29 – Day 39

Monday, April 1...  
Tuesday, April 2 SINE DIE!

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# Contact Us

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