



**The American
Institute
of Architects**

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The American Institute of Architects Week One Report January 13th – January 17th

The 2020 Session of the Georgia General Assembly is underway! The Legislature convened on Monday, January 13th. While the first week is often comprised of much pomp and circumstance, legislators wasted no time in getting to work. Along with the procedural necessities, there were a number of bills introduced as well as an “insist” on HB 276, Representative Harrell’s Sales Tax Bill introduced in 2019. HB 276 creates a mechanism to collect existing sales taxes on internet goods and services. Many companies were using a loophole to avoid paying. This could generate millions of new dollars in revenue for the state.

Keep reading for more on legislation to watch as well as a report on the State of the State, the Legislative calendar and more.

State of the State



On Thursday, the House and Senate united in a joint session in the House Chambers to hear Governor Brian Kemp's 2020 State of the State address. In the speech, Governor Kemp reflected on the gains in 2019 and addressed his priorities for 2020. Governor Kemp didn't specifically address the expected budget cuts but simply stated that Georgia will keep its budget balanced.

One priority of the Governor will be to deliver the additional \$2,000 pay raise to teachers. Last year teachers received \$3,000 of the \$5,000 promised. He also told the legislature he expects QBE to be fully funded again in 2020.

Kemp discussed reform in Georgia's adoption laws – namely tripling the current adoption tax credit of \$2,000 and launching a commission focused on improvements in the state's foster care system.

In health care, Governor Kemp promised to eliminate surprise billing in Georgia. He also noted that he is pushing for a partial Medicaid expansion to lower insurance premiums.

The Governor ended his speech by recognizing Senator Johnny Isakson and Governor Nathan Deal in the gallery. You can watch the speech in its entirety [here](#).



Legislative Calendar

The legislature has passed its first adjournment resolution. We have the schedule for the first 14 days of the Session that will take us through February 10th. Below is the upcoming schedule:

- Day 5 – January 27th
- Day 6 – January 28th
- Day 7 – January 29th
- Day 8 – January 30th
- Day 9 – January 31st
- Day 10 – February 3rd

Day 11 – February 4th
Day 12 – February 5th
Day 13 – February 6th
Day 14 – February 10th

Legislation to Watch

HB 773 – (Representative Scot Turner) Reciprocal licensing of professionals.

- The bill would provide for reciprocal licensing of professionals who are outside the state of Georgia if they meet the following criteria:
 - Must be currently licensed in at least one other state for the same scope of practice
 - Has been licensed in the discipline for at least one year
 - An outside regulating entity can verify the individual has met minimum education and work experience requirements
 - Applicant has previously passed an exam required for the license if required by the regulating agency
 - Has not had license revoked
 - Has not had any disciplinary action relating to unprofessional conduct imposed by any regulating entity
 - Does not have a pending complaint, allegation or investigation outside Georgia
 - Does not have a disqualifying criminal history
 - Pays all applicable fees.
- This bill was referred to the House Regulated Industries Committee.

HB 777 – (Representative John Corbett) Changing the standards for wood construction. The bill mandates that the State of Georgia review the 2021 building codes as adopted by the International Code and Council.

Referred to the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee

SB 292 – (Senator Sally Harrell) Changing the laws for wood construction.

This bill repeals the prohibition of the use of wood products in commercial construction.

Referred to the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee

In addition to the highlighted bills, please find the attached spreadsheet with a comprehensive list of affiliated bills for the 2019-2020 biennial.

Save The Date

Join us for AIA Day at The Capitol! February 6th will provide you an opportunity to hear from legislators and speakers and ask them any questions you may have. It will be located in the Coverdale Legislative Office Building (CLOB) in room 328. February 7th is the Christopher Kelly Leadership Development Program. That will be located in 403 CAP.

If you have any questions or concerns with legislation before the Georgia General Assembly, please do not hesitate to contact your Peachtree Government Relations team at the Capitol.

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