



**The American
Institute
of Architects**



AIA - Week 9

This week the Legislature met on Monday and Tuesday for long days full of committee meetings and floor votes leading into Crossover Day scheduled for Thursday, March 12th. Thursday came and along with it came many rumors about the fate of the Legislative Session with the Coronavirus pandemic and the social distancing regulations that have been put in place.

Lobbyists and legislators crowded around televisions to watch as Governor Kemp addressed the state about further precautions and recommendations to help stall the virus. Governor Kemp indicated the state government would remain open but encouraged employees to utilize teleworking whenever possible. You can watch his press conference here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6trEh9PQVn8>

Later that afternoon, in an unprecedented move, Speaker Ralston and the Lt. Governor announced to their respective chambers that the 2020 legislative session would be suspended “until further notice” after reading first readers on Friday. When legislators will return for Day 30 is unknown. We will update you as soon as we have information on when the session will resume.

With the announcement of the suspension, Day 28 continued. Legislators passed the Amended FY20 early in the day and sent it to the Governor. One notable addition to the budget is \$100 million to be taken from the rainy day fund to finance the state's response to COVID-19. The budget fully funds QBE and restores funds for grants to county health departments. The amended FY20 budget can be found here:

http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/Documents/2020_FiscalYear/Amended_FY_2020_Bill_Final_CC.pdf

Although there were many distractions throughout the day, there were still a number of big bills addressed.

The Senate sought to address legal climate reform that had been placed on the table after a lengthy debate on Day 27. Ultimately, the bill failed to receive enough votes to bring it off the table for a floor vote. The final vote of the day was HB 479, the hidden predator act. This bill would raise the limit for filing civil suits against alleged abusers from 23 to 38. It also allows victims to sue organizations for failing to prevent or report abuse. This bill failed late in the 2018 legislative session. It passed the House floor and is now in the Senate.

Other issues that were addressed include regulations on vaping, ethylene oxide, and healthcare transparency issues. Other bills that had passed before crossover day that are in play include lowering the number of testing for K-12, surprise billing and others.

Calendar:

The calendar is unknown at this point. We will update as soon as we have information.

Relevant Legislation:

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

The bill passed the House last week and is still in the Senate awaiting referral to a committee.

HB 773 - (Representative Scot Turner) - The bill would provide for reciprocal licensing of professions, occupations and trades for individuals who are licensed outside of Georgia if the individual is currently licensed in at least one other state, country or province or other subdivision and is in good standing in all licensed entities. The licensee must have been licensed for one year, be verified by the regulating entity, have previously passed an exam regulating the license if required, have not had their license revoked, has not voluntarily surrendered their license for unprofessional conduct and has not had disciplinary action or a complaint filed against them.

This bill failed to make it out of House Rules for the 2020 Session

HB 857 - (Representative Alan Powell) - This bill prohibits the use of railroad ties treated with creosote compounds or treated with naphthenate compounds for purposes of

commercial electricity generation, unless the boiler also provides steam or electricity to any co-located forest products processing plant.

This bill passed the House 163-0

SB 292 - (Senator Harrell) This bill requires local governments to adopt state-wide standard codes. It also requires local governments to have more stringent codes where state-wide codes do not exist. It allows for some exemptions in farm buildings and structures.

This bill failed to make it out of committee for the 2020 Session

SB 302 – (Senator John Albers) This bill provides for independent economic analyses to be procured by the Office of Planning and Budget for certain tax benefits upon request by the chairpersons of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee.

This bill passed the Senate and is in the House Second Readers

SB 315 - (Representative Lindsay Tippins) The bill addresses decisions involving waivers of liens and notices of nonpayment in contractor/subcontractor relationships. If the bill is passed, contractors may bring a breach of contract action even if they do not perfect their lien rights. The bill also adds an additional 30 days for the contractor to perfect their lien to bring the time to 90 days.

This bill passed the Senate and is in the House Second Readers

SB 309 - (Senator Jesse Stone) This bill is known as The Georgia Municipal and Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority Act. It provides a way for local governments to finance infrastructure at a lower cost and creates The Georgia Municipal & Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority and The Georgia County and Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority. The bill outlines the guidelines for members and duties of these authorities.

This bill failed to make it out of Rules for the 2020 Session

HB 970- (Representative Vance Smith) This bill provides an income tax credit for historic housing.

This bill failed to make it out of committee for the 2020 Session

HB 937 - (Representative Vance Smith)- This bill would prohibit cities and counties from regulating any building material, product or construction practice for single-family homes if approved in the state minimum standard codes.

As a result this legislation would preempt local government regulations and ordinances on the following:

- Exterior building color

- Type or style of exterior cladding material
- Style or materials of roof structures or porches
- Exterior nonstructural architectural ornamentation
- Location or architectural styling of windows and doors, including garage doors
- The number and types of rooms
- The interior layout of rooms
- Types of foundation structures approved under state minimum standard codes.

This bill failed to make it out of Rules for the 2020 Session

HB 1015 - (Representative Marcus A. Wiedower) This bill aims to expand Georgia's existing Carbon Registry to enable the creation and tracking of carbon credits that are tied to carbon sequestered in construction projects. Participation is completely optional for the private sector but provides tax credits to those who are willing to use construction materials that store carbon.

This bill passed the House 156-10