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GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS

AIA - Week 22

On Monday, June 15th, the Georgia Legislature will reconvene following a lengthy suspension for Day 30 of the 2020 legislative session. The number one priority will be the FY21 state budget that is required by law to be passed by July 1st. We look forward to returning to the Capitol even under many new procedures and protocols.

Executive Actions

Governor Kemp issued an executive order on Thursday, June 11th. The order further expands business activity and public interaction in Georgia.

Highlights of the order include:

- Professional sports teams must follow guidelines set by their leagues effective June 16th. This same order is expanded to apply to high school and collegiate teams.
- Effective immediately, Georgians 65 and over are no longer required to shelter in place. Those older adults with pre-existing conditions or that live in a long-term care facility should remain under shelter in place guidelines.
- Gatherings of more than 50 people are banned starting June 16th unless there is six feet of space in between each person.
- There is no longer a party maximum at restaurants. The limit on the number of people per square foot is also lifted.
- Bars can have 50 people or 35% of their total listed fire capacity - whichever is greater.
- Campers and staff must receive a negative COVID-19 test within 12 days of starting the camp.
- Beginning July 1st, a convention can take place if it meets 21 requirements on top of the requirements for non-critical infrastructure.

- Live performance venues can re-open if they comply with specific criteria for it's designated tier.
- Beginning June 16th, there is no longer a limit on the number of people who can sit together at a movie theater.

Resuming the Legislative Session

Monday we will return to the capitol. It may look a little different, but we are up for the challenge and are ready to get back to the hill. We are unsure how many days the session will last, but we are prepared for the full 11 days. Masks will be worn, social-distancing will happen, and we will get work done. The Speaker issued final recommendations regarding the return to the Capitol. In these recommendations he addressed the safety of members in that each member must be tested prior to returning to the Capitol. All members will have temperature checks daily and they will be limited in their interactions with staff and lobbyists. All committee hearings will be streamed and virtual presentations can be presented from the public with pre-registration. There were a number of additional sanitary precautions and safety measures included.

Covid-19 Testing Updates

As a reminder, testing is now available for all Georgians, whether or not they have symptoms. Georgians are asked to contact their local healthcare providers or any Georgia public health department to schedule a test. To find a local public health department, visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/>.

CVS has announced 23 new testing locations in Georgia where patients will do a self-swab through the drive thru. To find a location and see if you meet the criteria, click here: <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>

Election Day

This past Election Day was a record turn-out for a primary election and it was also the first time Georgians have used the new voting machines. While most counties seemed to adjust smoothly, a few counties did see some technical errors. DeKalb and Fulton county experienced the largest wait times and technical issues. A lot of these were due to the newer technology and first-time poll workers. Many of the usual poll workers were in the "at-risk" category for Covid-19 and chose to stay home this year.

This election cycle heavily favored incumbent legislators. Roughly 90% of the state legislators won their primary election outright avoiding both defeat and a runoff. Among the 35 legislators who faced opposition within their own party, two will be going to a runoff election on August 11st (Rep. Henson and Rep. Beasley-Teague) and two lost entirely (Rep. Jeff Jones and Rep. Dickerson). Rep. Jones lost his election to former Rep. Buddy DeLoach, and Rep. Dickerson was ousted by Covington pastor, Sharon Henderson.

While U.S. Senator David Perdue faced no opposition in his primary election, Jon Ossoff garnered enough votes to avoid a runoff with Teresa Tomlinson. While Georgia will have two U.S. Senate races come November election day, only one of the Senate races appeared

on Georgian's ballots this week. The other Senate race featuring Senator Kelly Loeffler and Congressman Doug Collins will be held in a "jungle primary" format in November. Every incumbent member of the Georgia Congressional Delegation won their primary with over 50% of the vote saving them having to compete in a runoff election. Georgia's Seventh, Ninth and Fourteenth Congressional Districts are being vacated, and each will have at least one runoff election on August 11th.

Thank you!

We are looking forward to a return to normalcy with the start of the General Assembly on June 15th. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for allowing us to represent you.