

## **2021 Georgia General Assembly Legislative Days 5-8 Overview**



### **Housekeeping**

The third week of session was off to a hot start with legislators introducing an abundance of bills. Many committees convened for the first time, voting on their committee rules and introducing their new chairmen. The legislature has also passed a new adjournment resolution outlining when the next five legislative days will be. Additionally, the Georgia House of Representatives has also passed its version of the Amended Fiscal Year 2021 State Budget (HB 80). The supplemental budget will now go to Senate Appropriations.

### **Adjournment Resolution**

Monday, February 1 - Legislative Day 9  
Tuesday, February 2 - Legislative Day 10  
Wednesday, February 3 - Legislative Day 11  
Thursday, February 4 - Legislative Day 12  
Monday, February 8 - Legislative Day 13



## **Supplemental Budget**

On Thursday, January 28, the Georgia House of Representatives passed their version of the supplemental budget by a vote of 149-20. The original Fiscal Year 2021 budget was set by a revenue estimate of \$25.9 billion that included reductions across all agencies from the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to Governor Kemp's leadership on the reopening of the state along with federal COVID-19 relief, the state was able to substantially improve on its estimates. The Governor's Office's revenue estimate for the Amended Fiscal Year 2021 Budget is a whopping \$26.56 billion. That is a \$654.3 million dollar increase, or 2.5% over the current budget. Much of the new budget is set for education spending, restoring 60% of the reductions made to K-12 education funding formulas in the original budget. Also included in the Supplemental Budget are an array of programs designed to help rural Georgia with infrastructure projects, and an additional \$199 million in available transportation funds. The rebound of motor fuel collections allows for the restoration of 55% of the cut to the Department of Transportation. House Bill 80 also recognizes that the Department of Health and Human Services will also be receiving additional budget increases in various facets due largely to federal COVID-19 aid.



### **“The Young and the Testless”**

On Tuesday, January 26, Representative David Clark (R-Buford) refused to participate in General Assembly COVID-19 safety protocols by not getting tested for COVID-19. The General Assembly COVID-19 safety protocols call for testing by members twice a week. Upon refusal, Rep. Clark was removed from the House floor and was stripped of his office work space by Speaker David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge) until he complies with the safety protocols. Rep. Clark denounced the Speaker’s actions stating that “I cannot in good conscience watch expensive tests that should be given to Georgia citizens who desperately need them be wasted for nothing more than political optics at the Capitol.”

### **Legislation**

HB 90 (Rep. Bruce Williamson) - This bill will allow for persons or businesses who are buyers of land for conversion of timber to be exempt from certain liabilities relating to damages.

SB 6 (Sen. John Albers) - This bill would allow for an independent economic analysis to be requested on fiscal bills by the chairpersons of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee.