

METRO ATLANTA CHAMBER

2020 CROSSOVER DAY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On Thursday, March 12, the Georgia General Assembly met for the 28th legislative day, also known as “Crossover Day.” This is the final day for bills to pass out of the chamber in which they were introduced. Bills that fail to pass are generally considered dead for the remainder of this session.

The legislature will convene on Friday, March 13 for day 29, but will then suspend activity until further notice.

Below are the bills MAC’s Public Policy team has worked on or tracked this session and their status as of Crossover Day. Bills of interest that received final passage last year are available here.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

SB 45/SR 84 (Sen. Brandon Beach) - if approved by voters, this constitutional amendment and enabling legislation would allow for pari-mutuel betting on horse racing. **DID NOT CROSS**

SB 110 (Sen. Jesse Stone) - enabling legislation for business courts approved by voters in a 2018 referendum. **CROSSED OVER**

SB 221 (Sen. Marty Harbin) - adopts the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act. **DID NOT CROSS**

SB 302 (Sen. John Albers) - provides for an independent economic analysis of fiscal bills. **CROSSED OVER**

SB 313 (Sen. Dean Burke)/HB 946 (Rep. David Knight) - regulates pharmacy benefit managers and includes language impacting self-insured health plans which may be triggered by a pending U.S. Supreme Court case. **CROSSED OVER**

SB 368 (Sen. Marty Harbin) - allows faith-based adoption agencies to refuse to place children with couples on religious grounds. **DID NOT CROSS**

SB 373 (Sen. John Kennedy) - establishes gross negligence as the standard of care for Georgia nonprofits, foundations, and cooperatives. **CROSSED OVER**

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SR 821 (Sen. Burt Jones) - If approved by voter referendum, would allow the Georgia Lottery Corporation to implement and regulate sports betting. Revenues would be dedicated to educational programs. **DID NOT CROSS**

SB 403 (Sen. Burt Jones) - enabling legislation for SR 821 (above); legalizes sports betting through mobile apps within Georgia. **DID NOT CROSS**

SB 415 (Sen. Steve Gooch) - aims to reduce tort litigation and reduce damages awarded. **DID NOT CROSS**

SR 184 (Sen. Brandon Beach) - if approved by voters, this constitutional amendment would authorize a limited number of licensed casino resorts within the state. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 132 (Rep. Bruce Williamson) - allows film and post-production tax credits to be assigned to an affiliate and applied against payroll withholding tax or income tax. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 230 (Rep. Scott Holcomb) - creates benefit corporations and allows corporations to add a public benefit provision to their articles of incorporation. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 276 (Rep. Brett Harrell) - requires a business or organization that contracts with third parties to sell goods and services, often referred to as a marketplace facilitator, to collect sales and use tax resulting from retail purchases made on its platform. **SIGNED INTO LAW**

HB 426 (Rep. Chuck Efstrotation) - empowers law enforcement and prosecutors to seek enhanced sentencing in cases where the victim is targeted out of hate or bias. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 474 (Rep. Tom Kirby) - changes the rule making authority of the State Board of Workers' Compensation. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 488 (Rep. Martin Momtahan) - creates an offense for "organized retail theft" to address acute challenges with stolen goods, fraudulent returns, and gift card scams. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 538 (Rep. Todd Jones) - levels the playing field for taxpayers and establishes fairness in cases before the Georgia Tax Tribunal. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 1101 (Rep. Martin Momtahan) - revises disclosure requirements for insurers, which would create an unfavorable business climate. **DID NOT CROSS**

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HB 1108 (Rep. James Burchett) - revises requirements and adds burdensome regulations for insurance settlements involving minors. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 1116 (Rep. Joseph Gullett) - revises regulations for uninsured motorist coverage resulting in higher insurance rates. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 1121 (Rep. Chuck Efstrotation) - creates a new cause of action against supervisors or co-workers relating to workplace sexual harassment. **DID NOT CROSS**

HR 327 (Rep. Ron Stephens) - if approved by voter referendum, would allow a limited amount of casino destination resorts. Revenues would be dedicated to educational programs. **DID NOT CROSS**

HR 378 (Rep. Ron Stephens) - if approved by voter referendum, would allow casino gaming, pari-mutuel betting, and sports betting. Revenue would be dedicated to healthcare and needs-based aid. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 570 (Rep. Ron Stephens) - enabling legislation for HR 378 (above); creates the Georgia Gaming Commission and sets parameters for casino gaming, pari-mutuel betting, and on-premise sports betting. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 580 (Rep. Matthew Wilson) - bans conversion therapy for minors. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 891 (Rep. Matthew Gambill) - extends the sunset on sales tax exemption for tickets to fine arts events and performances. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 949 (Rep. John Carson) - reduces the state personal income tax rate to 5.375% and flattens tax brackets. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 1037 (Rep. Matt Dollar) - requires mandatory audits for every production that receives the film tax credit, allows for the use of 3rd party auditors, and changes the carry forward for tax credits from five years to three years. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 1060 (Rep. Ginny Ehrhart) - would make it a felony for doctors to administer treatment to a minor undergoing transgender transition therapy. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 1094 (Rep. Houston Gaines) - provides all state employees with three weeks of paid parental leave. **CROSSED OVER**

HR 164 (Rep. Jay Powell) - if approved by voters, this constitutional amendment would statutorily dedicate revenue to the fund for which it is intended. **WILL APPEAR ON THE NOVEMBER 2020 BALLOT**

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HB 792 (House Speaker David Ralston) - the mid-year amended state budget which includes \$100 million in funding to address the coronavirus (COVID-19). **AWAITING THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE**

EDUCATED WORKFORCE

SB 181 (Sen. Burt Jones)/HB 123 (Rep. Bill Werkheiser) - transfers the Workforce Development Board and the accompanying federal funds from the Technical College System of Georgia to the Dept. of Labor. **DID NOT CROSS**

SB 288 (Sen. Tonya Anderson) - restricts access to certain criminal records when employment background checks are performed while ensuring employer liability protection, thus providing second chances to Georgians. **CROSSED OVER**

SB 294 (Sen. Ellis Black)/HB 830 (Rep. Tommy Benton) - expands alternative investment options for the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia. **CROSSED OVER**

SB 367 (Sen. P.K. Martin) - reduces the number of standardized tests required for K-12 students. **CROSSED OVER**

SB 386 (Sen. Renee Unterman) - expands Georgia's special needs voucher to include K-12 students with certain 504 plans. **CROSSED OVER**

SB 447 (Sen. P.K. Martin) - defines various terms surrounding work-based learning within Georgia law for future clarity. **CROSSED OVER**

SR 833 (Sen. P.K. Martin) - creates a joint study committee to make recommendations for improving work-based learning opportunities. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 444 (Rep. Bert Reeves) - makes modest changes to the dual enrollment program to help ensure sustainable growth. **AWAITING GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE**

HB 528 (Rep. Mandi Ballinger) - restricts access to certain criminal records when employment background checks are performed while ensuring employer liability protection, thus providing second chances to Georgians. **DID NOT CROSS OVER**

HB 793 (House Speaker David Ralston) - the House version of the fiscal year 2021 budget includes a \$1000 per year pay increase for teachers and a 4% merit-based increase for high needs education positions. It also includes an increase in funding for school counselors. **CROSSED OVER**

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HB 1084 (Rep. Mike Cheokas) - creates the Georgia Endowment for Teaching Professionals for high demand courses. **CROSSED OVER**

TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE

SB 131 (Sen. Burt Jones) - transfers control of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to a new state authority. **CROSSED OVER**

SB 200 (Sen. Steve Gooch) - contains miscellaneous transportation provisions. **IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

SB 411 (Sen. Steve Gooch) - sets pole attachment fees charged by electric membership corporations on cable and internet providers. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 105 (Rep. Sam Watson) - sets the sales tax rate for taxis, limos and rideshares at 50 cents per ride, 25 cents for pooled rideshare rides. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 244 (Rep. Ron Stephens) - sets pole attachment fees charged by electric membership corporations on cable and internet providers. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 511 (Rep. Kevin Tanner) - makes administrative changes to GRTA and ATL authorities and extends indexing of motor fuel tax to 2025. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 852 (Rep. Mike Glanton) - requires the City of Atlanta to pay property taxes on Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to Clayton County. **DID NOT CROSS**

NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 123 (Sen. William Ligon) - eliminates a surcharge on coal combustion residuals imposed by municipal solid waste disposal facilities operated by private enterprise. **CROSSED OVER**

SB 364 (Sen. Steve Gooch) - eliminates the percentage of ownership EMCs may hold in a gas marketer. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 465 (Rep. Don Parsons) - creates a water customer bill of rights. **DID NOT CROSS**

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HB 761 (Rep. John Carson) - eliminates the percentage of ownership EMCs may hold in a gas marketer. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 793 (Speaker David Ralston) - the House version of the fiscal year 2021 budget includes \$275,000 for a five-year water plan update for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and restores half the previously cut funds. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 926 (Rep. Terry Rogers) - Sets the fee for the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund and Solid Waste Trust Fund at 75 cents per ton, and extends the sunset to 2025. **DID NOT CROSS**

HB 929 (Rep. Vance Smith) - requires post-closure monitoring for coal ash ponds for 30 years after closure. **CROSSED OVER**

HB 959 (Rep. Steven Meeks) - increases the surcharge on coal combustion residuals imposed by municipal solid waste disposal facilities operated by private enterprise from \$1.00 to \$2.50. **CROSSED OVER**