

2017 Legislative Update Week 1

Monday January 9 - Friday January 13

Austin Hackney, Government Affairs Director



Hello and welcome to the first HBAG Legislative Update of the 2017 session of the Georgia General Assembly. 2017 is the first year of the two-year legislative biennium which means our tracking sheet gets a fresh start. We welcome many new faces to the capitol this year:

- Rep. Debra Bazemore - HD 63 (D-CollegePark)
- Rep. William Boddie - HD 62 (D-East Point)
- Rep. Josh Bonner - HD 72 (R-Peachtree City)
- Rep. Rhonda Burnough - HD 77 (D-Riverdale)
- Rep. J. Collins - HD 68 (R-Villa Rica)
- Rep. Clay Cox - HD 108 (R-Lilburn)
- Rep. David Dreyer - HD 59 (D-Atlanta)
- Rep. Matt Dubnik - HD 29 (R-Gainesville)
- Rep. Carl Wayne Gilliard - HD 162 (D-Garden City)
- Rep. Matt Gurtler - HD 8 (R-Tiger)
- Rep. Meagan Hanson - HD 80 (R-Brookhaven)
- Rep. Dewayne Hill - HD 3 (R-Ringgold)
- Rep. Scott Hilton - HD 95 (R-P'tree Corners)
- Rep. Don Hogan - HD 179 (R-St. Simons)
- Rep. Derrick Jackson - HD 64 (D-Tyrone)
- Rep. Todd Jones - HD 25 (R-South Forsyth)
- Rep. Vernon Jones - HD 91 (D-Lithonia)
- Rep. Brenda Lopez - HD 99 (D-Norcross)
- Rep. Karen Mathiak - HD 73 (R-Griffin)
- Rep. Bill McGowan - HD 138 (D-Americus)
- Rep. Sheila Clark Nelson - HD 125 (D-Augusta)
- Rep. Mark Newton - HD 123 (R-Augusta)a
- Rep. Samuel Park - HD 101 (D-Lawrenceville)
- Rep. Jason Ridley - HD 6 (R-Chatsworth)
- Rep. Renitta Shannon - HD 84 (D-Decatur)
- Rep. Deborah Silcox - HD 52 (R-Sandy Springs)
- Rep. Rick Williams - HD 45 (R-Milledgeville)
- Sen. Lee Anderson - SD 24 (R-Grovetown)
- Sen. Tonya Anderson - SD 43 (D-Lithonia)
- Sen. Matt Brass - SD 28 (R-Newnan)
- Sen. Chuck Payne - SD 54 (R-Dalton)
- Sen. Blake Tillery - SD 19 (R-Vidalia)

A new biennium brings new committee assignments and committee chairmen. New chairs:

- House Code Revision Committee: Rep. Buzz Brockway (R-Lawrenceville)
- House Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee: Rep. Bill Hitchens (R-Rincon)
- House Ethics Committee: Rep. Randy Nix (R-LaGrange)
- House Higher Education Committee: Rep. Rick Jasperse (R-Jasper)
- House Industry & Labor Committee: Rep. Brian Strickland (R-McDonough)
- House Information & Audits Committee: Rep. Darlene Taylor (R-Thomasville)
- House Juvenile Justice Committee: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R-Canton)

- House Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment Committee: Rep. Johnnie Caldwell (R-Thomaston)
- House Motor Vehicles Committee: Rep. Bubber Epps (R-Dry Branch)
- House Small Business Development Committee: Rep. Chad Nimmer (R-Blackshear)
- House Special Rules Committee: Rep. Buddy Harden (R-Cordele)
- House State Properties Committee: Rep. Gerald Greene (R-Cuthbert)
- House Transportation Committee: Rep. Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville)
- Senate Banking & Financial Institutions Committee: Sen. William Ligon (R-Brunswick)
- Senate Economic Development Committee: Sen. Mike Dugan (R-Carrollton)
- Senate Finance Committee: Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome)
- Senate Insurance & Labor Committee: Sen. Burt Jones (R-Jackson)
- Senate Judiciary Committee: Sen. Jesse Stone (R-Waynesboro)
- Senate Reapportionment & Redistricting Committee: Sen. Ben Watson (R-Savannah)
- Senate Retirement Committee: Sen. Ellis Black (R-Valdosta)
- Senate Transportation Committee: Sen. Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta)

HBAG's Government Affairs Committee (GAC) ramps up its work in conjunction with the start of the Legislature. We will continue pursuing our two main initiatives concerning aesthetic design controls and tree ordinances - with the intent of lessening the regulatory burden placed on builders by local government bureaucrats. We will also continue to defend the residential construction industry in Georgia from new regulations and fees like the development impact fees for new school buildings which we worked against last year.

GAC will also work on broader issues affecting small businesses through our partnership with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. This group works on issues like economic development, taxation, education, energy, transportation, and healthcare. The Chamber is also taking up the issue of legal reform to improve the balance of civil justice in the state.

The Home Builders Association of Georgia is represented at the state capitol by Government Affairs Director Austin Hackney and our contract lobbying team of Troutman Sanders Strategies - principally Sam Hill. Please contact Austin at ahackney@hbag.org with any questions or concerns about the legislature and HBAG's Government Affairs Committee.

The **2017 Legislative Rally & Winter Board Meeting** will take place at the state capitol on **February 21** and will follow a similar agenda as in year's past. Please mark your calendar and plan on joining your fellow HBAG members as we meet with our legislators and push our legislative agenda. Visit www.hbag.org to register for this event. Take the time now to contact your legislator and set up a meeting - your participation as a local constituent is what makes this event so effective.

GAC will meet for the first time this year next week - **Wednesday January 18 at 11:00 am** at the HBAG office in Atlanta. A meeting notice with an agenda, tracking sheet, and last meeting's minutes will be forthcoming.

