

2017 Legislative Update Week 2

Monday January 16 - Friday January 20

Austin Hackney, Government Affairs Director



Welcome to the HBAG Legislative Update for Week 2 of the Georgia General Assembly's 2017 Legislative Session. Week 2 technically did not contain any "legislative days", but the work continued under the Gold Dome as House and Senate Appropriations Committees worked on the state budget and held hearings with state agency heads. Lawmakers continued their work at the capitol, and so did HBAG's Government Affairs Committee. A meeting was held at the HBAG office on Wednesday 1/18.

GAC got updates on the progress of our legislative initiatives: building design controls and tree ordinances. Both bills are still early in the process and haven't been assigned a "bill number" yet. A discussion about the measuring point of stream buffers was renewed from last year's tracking sheet. Supporters of the bill we had a part in defeating last year have brought new language and asked HBAG to weigh in, so the task force chaired by Tim Thornton has been renewed. GAC also took a position on several new bills:

- [HB 4](#) - [Rep. Jason Spencer \(R-Woodbine\)](#) - requires owners of conservation use property to be current on all property taxes. **MONITOR**
- [HB 12](#) - [Rep. Jeff Jones \(R-Brunswick\)](#) - places a fee on financial institutions for individual wire transfers - \$10 for up to \$500 and 2% of anything more than \$500. **OPPOSE**
- [HB 27](#) - [Rep. Billy Mitchell \(D-Stone Mountain\)](#) - provides a path for a debtor to cure a real estate debt up to 5 days previous to the sale of a property. **MONITOR**
- [HB 39](#) - [Rep. Alan Powell \(R-Hartwell\)](#) - changes the way real estate appraisers interact with their governing board during disciplinary actions. **MONITOR**
- [HB 41](#) - [Rep. Brett Harrell \(R-Snellville\)](#) - streamlines the qualification process for aspiring architects. **MONITOR**
- [HB 55](#) - [Rep. Rick Williams \(R-Milledgeville\)](#) - sets term limits of 8 years on members of Georgia's professional licensing boards. **MONITOR**
- [HB 56](#) - [Rep. Ron Stephens \(R-Savannah\)](#) - places a "property tax recovery fee" of 1.5% on construction equipment rentals in the state. **OPPOSE**
- [SB 2](#) - [Sen. Mike Dugan \(R-Carrollton\)](#) - "The FAST Act" - places business-minded reforms on state and local government permitting, professional licenses, transparency regarding the "business-friendliness" of a local government, and all regulations up for adoption. **MONITOR**

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.

REMINDER: 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 next week - **Thursday January 26 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.