

# 2017 Legislative Update Week 3

Monday January 23 - Friday January 27

Austin Hackney, Government Affairs Director



Welcome to the HBAG Legislative Update for Week 3 of the Georgia General Assembly's 2017 Legislative Session. Week 3 contained four legislative days, which means we're already through day 8 of 40. Committee meetings took place throughout the week with a focus on initial organization rather than the taking up of specific bills. GAC, on the other hand, had a substantial meeting that took place at the HBAG office on Thursday 1/26.

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. Some discussion took place among the group of the different strategies that negotiations could take to address the issue of over-burdensome tree ordinances. The issue of the measuring point of stream buffers has not moved since it was discussed last week. [SB 2 - The FAST Act](#) - received a heavy amount of discussion among committee members and more feedback is needed as HBAG is expected to provide comments on the bill. The bill is intended to set expectations for the costs and timelines of permitting and licensing by local and state government agencies, among other regulatory reforms. GAC is committed to vetting the bill for unintended consequences and to provide constructive feedback to the bill's sponsors. GAC took a position on several new bills:

- [HB 59 - Rep. Ron Stephens \(R-Savannah\)](#) - removes the cap on tax credits available for the rehabilitation of historic structures and allows for those tax credits to be sold on the secondary market. **MONITOR**
- [HB 66 - 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. (Same as HB 12) **OPPOSE**
- [HB 76 - Rep. Rick Jasperse \(R-Jasper\)](#) - a rewrite of last year's update for the filing of maps and plats by surveyors to the county clerks, to allow for electronic filing, etc. **MONITOR**
- [HB 87 - Rep. Brad Raffensperger \(R-Johns Creek\)](#) - provides for the annual registration for businesses (and non-profits) with the Secretary of State to be valid for up to 3 years at a time. **SUPPORT**
- [SB 28 - Sen. Vincent Fort \(D-Atlanta\)](#) - increases the minimum wage in the state to \$15 per hour, with automatic "cost of living" increases annually. **OPPOSE**

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](mailto: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](http://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 February 2 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.