

2017 Legislative Update Week 5

Monday February 6 - Friday February 10

Austin Hackney, Government Affairs Director



Welcome to the HBAG Legislative Update for Week 5 of the Georgia General Assembly's 2017 Legislative Session. Week 5 contained four legislative days, which means we're already through day 16 of 40. Congressman Tom Price was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the Trump Administration's Secretary of Health & Human Services. He will now resign from Congress, setting off a row of dominos in the special election (April 18) to replace him in the Sixth District. Folks rumored to be running include former Secretary of State Karen Handel, former city Councilman Bob Gray, local businessman Kurt Wilson, ex State Senator Dan Moody, State Senator Judson Hill, Dunwoody jeweler (and diversity coordinator for the Trump campaign) Bruce Levell and CPA William Llop - and that's just the Republicans. On the Democrat side, former Congressional staffer Jonathan Ossof has been endorsed by Congressmen John Lewis and Hank Johnson and State House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams.

GAC met this week at the HBAG office on Thursday February 9 and 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. The stream buffer definition bill has been stalled and a new study committee has been proposed. A substitute for [SB 2 - The FAST Act](#) - was thoroughly dissected by the group and some further changes have been suggested. HBAG has submitted these notes to the bill's sponsor and will continue to provide input throughout the process. GAC took a position on several new bills:

- [HB 203 - Rep. Brian Strickland \(R-McDonough\)](#) - new procedures for home owners associations to expand their scope and changes certain related governance restrictions. **MONITOR**
- [HB 204 - Rep. Brett Harrell \(R-Snellville\)](#) - prohibits local governments from including fees for services on a property tax bill. **SUPPORT**
- [HB 239 - Rep. Lee Hawkins \(R-Gainesville\)](#) - allows the Division of Low-voltage Contractors of the State Construction Industry Licensing Board to require continuing education credits. **MONITOR**
- [SB 116 - Sen. Frank Ginn \(R-Danielsville\)](#) - exempts "water neutral site" properties from local government storm-water fees. **MONITOR**
- [SB 120 - Sen. William Ligon Jr. \(R-Brunswick\)](#) - establishes a procedure for the correction of defects in attestations and acknowledgments to the recording of deeds. **MONITOR**
- [SR 152 - Sen. Frank Ginn \(R-Danielsville\)](#) - creates the Joint Study Committee on Stream Buffers in Georgia. **MONITOR**

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 years 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 let him or her know you're coming - your participation as a local constituent is what makes this event so effective.

GAC will meet next week - **Thursday February 16 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.